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DOORS ARE CLOSED ON FINEST ART

THE leading modern art gallery in the county closed at the weekend after failing to attract enough business to survive.

Liberty Art Gallery had traded for two years in Kings Hill, forging a good reputation for contemporary fine and applied art.

But owner Patsy Dixon has been forced to call it a day in the Liberty Square premises because of the high costs of running the gallery compared with the number of sales.

A leading art buyer, who did not want to be named, said: "It is the right

■ BY ANNA WHITE

gallery, just in the wrong place.

"Hopefully Liberty will find a more suitable venue as it would be a travesty to lose such a high quality gallery."

Ms Dixon said: "As far as Liberty Gallery is concerned, we have been really pleased with the business we have established in our two years here.

"We have built up a really good reputation as a contemporary fine art and applied arts gallery and still receive comments from many visitors saying they have not seen such high-

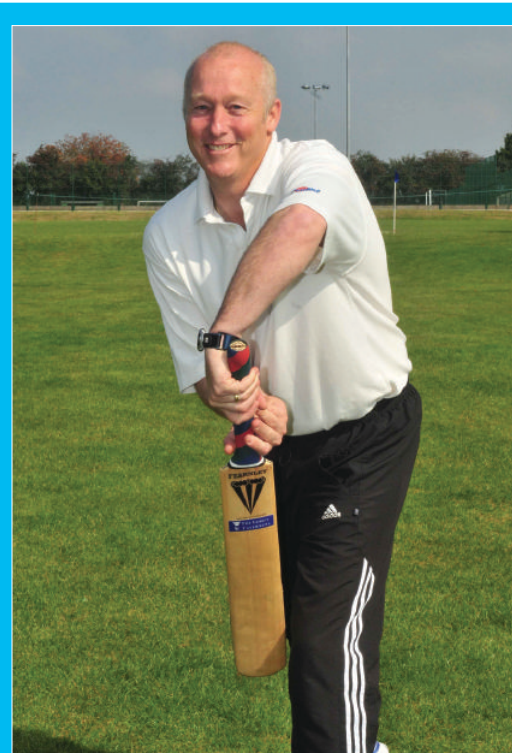
end works of art in such a superb setting outside London.

"We've had a number of successful private views for our artists - and we've also had various charity evenings in the gallery itself.

"Despite this, because of such high outgoings, we are unable to continue to trade here in Liberty Square."

The gallery owner, who lives in Kings Hill, added: "The gallery represents more than 80 artists from Kent and further afield - galleries such as Liberty Gallery are sometimes the only outlets for these artists and even though we have done all we can to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



SCHOOL IS BOWLED OVER BY NEW COACH

Former England and Kent cricket star Vince Wells has been appointed cricket coach at Sutton Valence School.

Mr Wells, 43, has replaced former Kent and England fast bowler Alan Igglesden as the new coach at the Chart Sutton school, who has taken up a new post at a school in Yorkshire.

The all-rounder enjoyed a successful 16-year cricket career playing for Kent, Leicestershire, Durham, and for England's one-day team during a tour of Australia in 1998.

More recently he was assistant coach to the England Ladies' cricket team and coached at the Kent County Cricket Club academy.

Mr Wells said: "My aim is to carry on where Alan left off, introduce one or two new ideas, and maintain the school's excellent reputation for cricket and other sports."

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Sound of Music attracts Toby to a new stage in an acting career

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

A MAIDSTONE schoolboy is starring in a West End musical alongside two top TV stars.

Toby Graham, 12, a pupil at Maidstone Grammar School, has been playing the part of Friedrich in the stage version of The Sound of Music at the London Palladium.

The show stars Hollyoaks beauty Summer Strallen in the lead role of Maria and Simon MacCorkindale, who played consultant Harry Harper in Casualty, as Captain Von Trapp.

Toby, who lives in Leeds, near Maidstone, attended performing arts and stage coaching at Kings Hill on Saturdays, where he was introduced to an agency which put him forward for the role.

He had to attend auditions and won the part by impressing the casting crew in a final four-hour audition.

Speaking of her son's new role, mum Antonia Graham said: "It was awful for the parents having to wait outside the audition room to see if their child came out with a piece of paper stating they were through to the next round."

"He is really loving it and dreading coming off the stage for the last time in November, but I am sure he will audition for other West End productions."

To ensure the children don't work too many hours during the run of The Sound of Music, there are three versions of the Von Trapp family who alternate their performances.

Mrs Graham said: "He gets on so well with the family he acts with, they all have a really close bond."

"Both Summer and Simon



WEST END BOY: Actor Toby Graham

MacCorkindale, who recently joined the play, get on well with the children. Summer is really lovely and sweet, Simon is just superb with the kids."

The talented youngster, who attended Hollingbourne Primary School, used to sing in the school choir and Kent Youth Singers, but much prefers it on the West End stage.

Toby is not the only member of his family to have been smitten by the acting bug.

He has appeared in plays produced by Leeds Amateur Dramatics Society (LADS) since he was five alongside sister Sacha, 14, and brother Luke, 17.

Mrs Graham, who is a school governor at Leeds and Broomfield Primary School and a member of Leeds parish council, said: "Toby's real strength is his singing, he has a beautiful voice."

"He is very down-to-earth and modest. You will never hear him telling everyone about what he's doing."

Toby will play the eldest son in the show until early November. For tickets, call 0871 297 0748.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Getting to grips with evening of wrestling

WRESTLING stars will bring their unique brand of entertainment to Paddock Wood Hop Farm next weekend.

Wrestlers from Sky TV's LDN Wrestling will treat the audience to a night of thrills, spills and bodyslams on October 11.

Gentleman Jon Ritchie, British Champion Yorghos, Australia's Sean King, 'The Poser' Michael Mendoza and Dave Jackson will take part. Doors open at 6.30pm. For tickets, visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

West Kent 'delivering quality urgent care'

AN INDEPENDENT report has concluded patients in West Kent are receiving good quality urgent care.

The Healthcare Commission rated NHS West Kent as 'better performing', confirming it is in a good position as it develops urgent and emergency care services.

West Kent Primary Care Trust was praised for managing demands for urgent and emergency care, monitoring these services and having effective strategy to deliver them.

Park and ride driver cut free after smash

FIREFIGHTERS used cutting equipment to free a park and ride bus driver after a collision with a car in Maidstone town centre.

The accident happened at the junction of King Street and Wat Tyler Way on Monday at about 3.15pm.

Fire crews from Maidstone and Larkfield put out a small fire in the engine of a black Volkswagen Passat and freed the bus driver. Both drivers escaped with minor injuries.

Witness appeal after late-night beating

POLICE have appealed for witnesses to an assault on a 25-year-old man to come forward.

The victim was walking along London Road towards Maidstone town centre on August 3 at about 3.30am when two men got out of an old blue Fiat Punto, verbally abused the victim before punching him to the ground.

One of the attackers stamped on his leg before leaving. The victim suffered swelling to his cheek and severe bruising to his leg.

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Protest a sign of the times on danger road

But residents are told they must wait until 2010

BY ANNA WHITE

CAMPAIGNER Peter Carroll led a people's protest to raise awareness of the danger for pedestrians crossing a busy road.

The Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald was joined by County Cllr Dan Daley and dozens of residents at the junction of Gatland Lane and Fant Lane, just off the Tombridge Road, in the county town.

They waved speed limit signs on Monday morning hoping to encourage drivers to cut their speed, while grabbing Kent County Council's attention.

Mr Carroll told Yourmaidstone: "I was approached for help by Joyce Whitehead, a resident who has lived in the area for nearly 50 years.

"Joyce and others explained to me that they have been fighting for years to get measures in place which would make this junction safer.

"As I am a Lib-Dem campaigner I often ask residents what they would most like to see change, and the problem at Fant Lane and Gatland Lane repeatedly came up.

"The road is two widths wider than a normal road, which isn't easy for elderly people to get across."

He added: "So many drivers fly round the bend at 60mph when the speed limit is 30. Residents have asked for an island or road signs and markings but the answer is always no.

"The problem is ruining mothers with bug-



SLOW DOWN: Campaigners are rallying in an effort to encourage the council to increase safety measures on road

gies and the elderly people's quality of life by having to worry about it.

"We want to get the council to commit to funding for narrowing the neck of the lane to slow drivers down."

Ms Whitehead, 87, who has to cross the road to catch a bus, said: "It's at least a five minute wait to cross the road, sometimes ten and even more at rush hour.

"I go to Maidstone two to three times a week and I dread it, I'm frightened."

Lib Dem County Cllr Dan Daley said: "I have been asking the county council for improve-

ments for five years without any success. They recognise the road is dangerous but because no-one has been killed it is not on the radar for improvements.

"We almost had success two years ago but the new reprioritisation scheme meant it was completely ignored, because there have been no deaths."

The county council's cabinet member for highways Keith Ferrin said: "Dan Daley has spoken to me several times and we are hoping to get it done by next year, it isn't high enough priority for this year."

Advice surgery for beating the crunch

TORY hopeful Helen Grant is launching a new weekly surgery to give advice and guidance to help people deal with the economic downturn.

The Conservative parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald will be using her 20-years experience as a family and community solicitor to offer residents guidance on debt, benefits, employment issues and family breakdown.

People who wish to make an appointment at the surgeries, which will be held at the Conservative Association offices in Albion Place, Maidstone, must live in the Maidstone and Weald district.

Mrs Grant said: "Our MP Ann Widdecombe already helps many people at her weekly surgeries.

"I will be providing this extra surgery on Thursdays to help the many additional people who are now suffering the direct and in-direct effects of the economic downturn."

The surgeries will be on most Thursdays, starting tomorrow.

To book an appointment or for more information please call Mrs Grant on 01622 752463 or email helengrant@helengrant.org.

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Art still on show after closure

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

bring their work into the public eye, it hasn't been enough in our present location."

To avoid disappointing clients Ms Dixon intends to continue showcasing the gallery's work at the Affordable Art Fair in Battersea Park, London, throughout October.

She told Yourmaidstone: "We are going to wait until we have done the art fair in October and then will look into showing work at the Artist Quarter in Maidstone, and in West Malling and other surrounding towns."

Artwork from the Liberty Gallery will also be at displayed at the Graham Clark Gallery within the Hazlitt Art Centre in November, as part of a tree-focused exhibition.

The gallery will still be operating online at www.liberty-gallery.com and by phone on 01732 522311.

Advice to go green

VILLAGERS in Headcorn are being encouraged to become a low carbon community.

Energy experts will be giving out tips on how people can reduce fuel bills at an Energy Awareness Day at the Farmer's Market at Headcorn Village Hall on October 11, from 9.30am until 12.30pm.

For details call 01622 890601 or email penny.kemp@virgin.net.

Dedication of our Gurkhas honoured at statue unveiling

A PERMANENT statue will be unveiled tomorrow as a tribute to the Gurkhas' bravery, courage and loyalty in a special ceremony.

An overwhelming response to a public appeal saw more than £15,000 raised in three months to create a bronze statue in honour of the servicemen, who have played a significant role in the British Armed Forces since 1815.

Approximately 150 Gurkha Engineers, accompanied by their national pipe band, will parade through the town centre to Maidstone Museum tomorrow morning, where the sculpture will be revealed.

The statue of a Gurkha Engineer Sergeant in dress uniform, sculpted by Mary Cox from Sussex, will be mounted on a granite plinth and placed in the courtyard at the museum, to mark the 60th anniversary of the raising of the Queens Gurkha Engineers.

County Cllr Dan Daley, who instigated the project, said: "The Gurkha

soldiers in Maidstone should know that they and their families are welcomed here and that this tribute is a genuine token of our friendship."

The parade will start at County Hall at 11.35am, before making its way up Week Street. At about 11.40am the parade will form into ranks outside the museum in St Faith's Street, where the Mayor of Maidstone Denise Joy and Lieutenant General David Bill will inspect the line-up before the unveiling ceremony.

Gurkhas fighting for equal rights to stay in Britain have won support from the High Court.

Currently only Gurkhas discharged from the British Army since 1997 are entitled to settlement and pensions rights, but a ruling yesterday declared that as "unlawful".

The verdict means thousands of the loyal soldiers, many of whom now live in Kent, will be allowed to stay in the country rather than be forced to return to Nepal.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Dockside artwork slips
a winner to Sheilagh

CHATHAM Historic Dockyard has presented the winner of its open art competition with a £500 prize.

A piece titled No.3 Slip by Sheilagh Dyson, from Maidstone, won the 'Best in Show' award at the biennial Art in the Dockyard Open Competition.

Twenty-nine entrants took part in the competition, submitting a total of 46 pieces of work for judging.

An exhibition of the art submitted for the competition can be seen at The Historic Dockyard until November 2, free of charge.

Cop's fancy dress game
hits charity home run

STUDENT officers at Kent police challenged their tutors to a fancy-dress charity rounders match.

All money raised from the game yesterday will be donated to the Cherished Memories charity and each player has donated £5 to the cause.

The Greenhithe-based charity organises fun days out for families with terminally children aged one to 18 years old.

The student officers took on their tutors on the green behind the Kent Police College at Coverdale Avenue in Maidstone.

Businesswoman women
show real heart at lunch

AN all-female networking lunch organised by accountancy firm Horwath Whitehill has raised £400 for the Heart of Kent Hospice.

Kent based HCW ran the 'Professionally Pink' event in conjunction with Ansacom, Clydesdale Bank and Brachers.

About 25 businesswomen attended the lunch at Souffle Restaurant in Bearsted and were able to discuss business in an informal atmosphere, listen to guest speaker Caroline Brinkman, corporate fundraiser from the Heart of Kent Hospice.

Giant leap forward for
the smallest of animals

A NEW rescue centre for small animals will be officially opened on Saturday, October 11, during an open day with fundraising stalls and educational displays.

The Small Animal House at Leybourne RSPCA Animal Centre in West Malling will take all little animals brought in apart from cats and dogs.

The new building can home 70 animals at any one time and consists of 16 rabbit-sized pens, four ferret pens, a bird room, a wildlife room and a ground dwelling.

Monks launch appeal
to save historic home

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A HOME to 16 monks needs £20,000 for vital repairs to the main buildings which are Grade-I listed.

About 20 community leaders, including the Mayor of Maidstone Denise Joy, attended The Friars in Aylesford to launch the 'Watergate' appeal on Tuesday last week.

Visitors were treated to a cup of the Friars famous cream tea drink and music from harpist Ellen Smith, member of the BBC Symphony Chorus and performer at the Last Night of the Proms, before being taken on a tour of the 16th century religious house and the damaged area.

The appeal hopes to raise awareness of the architectural problems they are facing and the funding needed for the repairs.

The Friars is a complex of buildings – including some which have already been restored, some in need of repair and other destroyed by fire which have been turned into a shrine.

The Grade 1 listed building in need of restoration is called The Watergate and received its name due to its views of the River Medway.

There were also once steps leading up to the building from the river for visitors travelling by boat to enter.

Staff at the religious community noticed cracks beginning to show in the structure during the summer.

Construction workers removed the concrete rendering, which is assumed to have been wrongly fitted in the 1960s, to discover extensive rotting of wooden beams and water damage to the entire structure.

The Watergate contains 65 guest rooms,



HISTORIC: The Grade-I listed Friars building is in need of restoration work, and Father Brendan Grady (left)

which are still habitable, but the institution is now hoping to raise £200,000 to replace its timber and rendering.

Former Head Prior of the Community at Aylesford who is now the Prior Provincial of the Carmelite Order in Britain is Father Wilfrid McGreal.

He said: "I love Aylesford as I have known it since I was a teenager. I have been a Carmelite for 50 years and I feel that I have lived a dual life in Kent."

The Friars is home to 16 Carmelites and four novices. Head of the Community Father Brendan Grady joined Aylesford in August.

He said: "We are hoping that local businesses, and friends and families of The Friars, will

help us raise the £200,000 needed."

More than 250,000 pilgrims travel to The Friars every year from various faiths.

After a fire destroyed some of the grounds in 1930, three different chapels and an open-air shrine area which can seat thousands were built in 1958.

In 2001 English Heritage awarded £1million to restore its North Barn and its Gatehouse, which were both close to falling apart.

The religious complex is open 365 days a year and runs solely on donations, car park charges and fundraising events such as an annual Christmas fayre.

For more information please call 01622 717272.

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Thousands flock to Fools convention

ORGANISERS were staggered by the popularity of the Only Fools and Horses Convention on Sunday.

They had expected 1,500 people to attend the event at Mote Park Leisure Centre in Maidstone – but were stunned when more than 2,200 fans flooded through its doors.

People travelled from across Kent to meet the actors who played Trigger, Denzil, Mickey Pearce, Sid of

the Nag's Head, and Del-Boy's son Damien.

Only Fools Appreciation Society president Perry Aghajonoff, who organised the convention, said: "It was brilliant and has definitely been the biggest one so far."

"After 11 years of touring and seeing less and less people, Maidstone has taken us back to the hey-days."

Enthusiasts spent the day admiring memorabilia from the treasured sitcom – including

the famous yellow three-wheeler van and Del-Boy's eccentric outfits.

Fans could also sit in Del-Boy's chair and contemplate 'get rich quick' schemes in a recreation of the Trotters' flat, as well as buy rare items from the show.

Mr Aghajonoff added: "The day was staggering, I can't believe how many people came along, this is the first time we had been to Kent and it was sensational."

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NEW HOME NIGHTMARE: Riverside Plaza residents are concerned central heating systems may be dangerous

More owners ordered out of killer gas flats

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

A COUPLE at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in their newly-built flat have been told they will have to move out – so their bedroom ceiling can be ripped down.

Yourmaidstone exclusively revealed two weeks ago that residents of the Barratt Homes development Riverside Plaza in Maidstone had been warned they could have been exposed to the lethal gas.

Last week we reported that more new Barratt flats at Leybourne Park in Aylesford had defective flues in their central heating systems which could cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

One of the affected homeowners at Riverside Plaza, Rebecca Fenton, 21, has now been told her bedroom ceiling will have to be taken down, the gas work re-done and the ceiling replaced. She moved in in April.

She said: "I am most upset at the thought of moving out and having our bedroom worked on. We spent so long getting the bedroom looking nice and even took holiday from work to do it."

"Now we will have to spend time removing everything and putting it all back to how we had it. All our furniture is fitted together and I doubt we will be able to fix it back to how it was again."

"We are getting married next May, so ideally we want the repair work completed by Christmas."

She has written a letter of complaint to Barratt Homes but not yet had a reply.

The developer has told residents the installation of their heating systems "was carried out and subsequently commissioned by independent Corgi-registered sub-contractors".

But Miss Fenton added: "I have to say I am shocked that not only was the work carried

out by a Corgi-registered workman, but that it had to be checked and signed off by another Corgi person.

"It seems unbelievable that they are allowed to get away with doing a whole development wrong."

David Pointon moved into a flat at Riverside Plaza in early June and received a precautionary letter from Barratt Homes warning about the risk of a gas leak four days later.

He said: "In my block the majority of properties have been affected by issues with the flues and Barratts have taken time to repair them, inconveniencing their customers who have no hot water."

"It took until the end of July to get inspected – the British Gas Engineer inspected three installations in my block that day and turned off all three. Since then the majority of inspections have had a similar response."

Coma

He added: "It took until the end of August for Barratt to make 'safe' my installation, others have waited two months, but it has still not been repaired as it requires some external work at height."

A Barratt Homes spokesman said: "Installations at Riverside Plaza are being inspected and carbon monoxide alarms fitted."

"Whilst the installations following inspection are safe to operate, we have identified a defect which is not to manufacturer's instructions. In order to remediate the defect some ceilings in a property may need to be removed."

"This work is currently being programmed and is anticipated to take no more than 72 hours to complete in each property. Occupants will be given the option of moving to alternative accommodation on the development if they wish while the work is completed."

• In February Elouise Littlewood, 26, died in a new Barratt flat in Hounslow, London, and her flatmate Simon Kilby was left in a coma.

The Health and Safety Executive began an investigation into the cause of the woman's death, focusing on the central heating system that was installed by a Corgi-registered engineer.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Homecoming show for the naked dancing queen

A TOP burlesque performer is returning to her roots in Kent for a night of dancing, striptease, comedy and cabaret.

Ivy Paige, 28, originally from Rainham, spent most of her youth performing in Maidstone with the Changeling Theatre Company from the ages of 11-18, before going on to achieve international success as a showgirl.

The dancer, who now lives in the county town, will be showcasing her new performance at Mu Mu bar in Week Street, Maidstone, on Friday.

Ms Paige said: "I spend a lot of my time performing in London or abroad and I felt that it was time I invested in my local area."

"Mu Mu really is a wonderful venue with its opulent interior, but you also have the option to eat in the restaurant before the show."

"The show has some of London's finest burlesque and cabaret stars, as well as some incredible talent from Maidstone."

Tickets will be available on the door for £10 or online at www.ivypage.co.uk at a special rate of two-for-one.

Ginger parks flasher strikes in broad daylight

POLICE have appealed for help to catch a man seen repeatedly flashing passers-by in two open areas in Maidstone.

Officers have received a number of reports saying a man has been seen in Vinters Park nature reserve and Penenden Heath playing field indecently exposing himself to the public in broad daylight between September 13 and 18.

The flasher is white, aged between 30 and 40, 5ft 10ins to 6ft, with short-cropped light ginger coloured hair.

Anyone with information should contact Kent police on 01622 604279.

Loyd goes through the arts university keyhole


TV PRESENTER Loyd Grossman has been appointed chairman of the University for the Creative Arts' board of governors.

The former *Through the Keyhole* and *Masterchef* presenter said he was delighted to take on the role at UCA, formerly known as the Kent Institute of Art and Design and UCCA.

He said: "Nurturing creativity brings huge benefits to every part of our society and I believe the university has a great deal to contribute to the economic success of the UK."

UCA has five campuses across Kent and Surrey, including buildings in Rochester, Maidstone and Canterbury. It gained full university status earlier this year.

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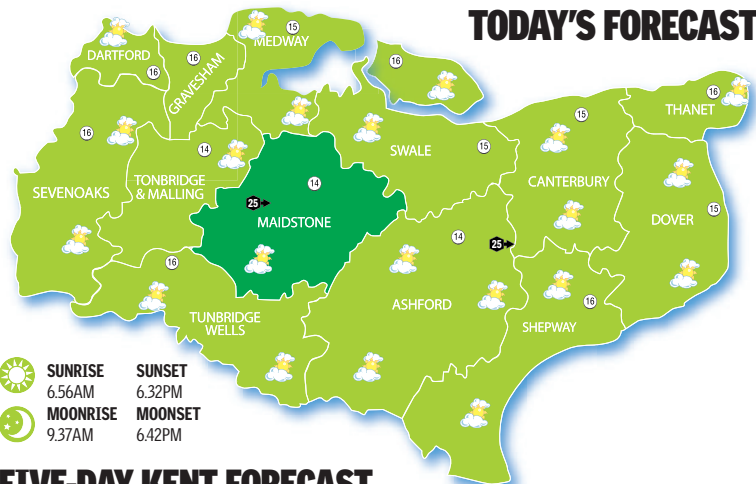
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TODAY'S FORECAST

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:16pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:48pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	1:30pm	6.7m
	Sunday	1:59pm	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:34pm	7.8m
	Sunday	2:06pm	7.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:00pm	5.1m
	Sunday	2:29pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:06pm	5.8m
	Sunday	3:38pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:16pm	5.3m
	Sunday	3:47pm	5.2m

SUNRISE 6.56AM
SUNSET 6.32PM
MOONRISE 9.37AM
MOONSET 6.42PM

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	15°C	16°C	13°C	11°C	13°C	Gravesend	15°C	17°C	14°C	14°C	16°C
Canterbury	14°C	15°C	13°C	12°C	14°C	Maidstone	14°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	15°C
Chatham	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C	Ramsgate	14°C	15°C	13°C	12°C	14°C
Dartford	15°C	17°C	14°C	14°C	16°C	Rochester	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C
Dover	14°C	15°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Sevenoaks	13°C	15°C	13°C	12°C	13°C
Faversham	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C	Sittingbourne	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C
Folkestone	14°C	15°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Tonbridge	14°C	15°C	14°C	12°C	14°C
Gillingham	15°C	16°C	14°C	13°C	15°C	Tun Wells	14°C	15°C	14°C	12°C	14°C

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	21°C
Athens	21°C	New York	22°C
Barcelona	24°C	Paris	17°C
Beijing	18°C	Rome	20°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	16°C
Gibraltar	20°C	Vancouver	15°C
Hong Kong	30°C	Warsaw	15°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	12°C

Single adults to face home checks

THE Audit Commission will be conducting a data matching exercise to find residents who are claiming false single occupancy benefits.

The commission has requested various data including the full electoral register and details of council tax discounts from Maidstone council for auditors to compare to look for benefit discrepancies.

In the exercise, if the electoral register shows more than one person living in a property, this will be compared to council tax records to see if the resident liable for paying council tax is claiming single occupancy discount.

Cllr Richard Ash, cabinet member for corporate services, said: "We are required by law to supply the information, which will be used to identify potential fraud issues."

"These cost council taxpayers' money, which is something we would all wish to avoid."

"The council tax data will be provided this month and the electoral registration information will be sent direct from the election office to the Audit Commission via their secure website by the deadline of December 31."

"The outcome of the matching exercise will be known shortly after. The exercise will subsequently be carried out on a regular basis."

The information provided will be secured on the commission's system and not transmitted or put on any portable media to ensure complete security of the data.

If you have any queries or would like more information, call the council's revenues team on 01622 602003.

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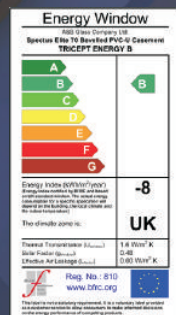


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QUESTION & ANSWER

ADRIAN LOWTHER



Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I am the senior men's team manager for Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club. I am also a distance runner in the club's senior team and have won the Kent 10,000m and 3,000m steeplechase on the track this year.

Q How long have you been a member of Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club?

A I started athletics on my tenth birthday in 1991. I became a member of Medway Athletic Club, which is now Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club.

Q Can you tell us about the club?

A The club provides training and competition in track and field, cross country and road running, for people of all ages and abilities. We train in both Medway and Maidstone and have our headquarters at Deangate Track in Hoo.

We are really looking forward to having two new tracks in the coming year at the Medway Park development in Gillingham and at Sutton Valence School, in Chart Sutton, near Maidstone.

Q How far has the club come since it was first started?

A The club was formed in 2001 following the merger of Medway Athletic Club and Maidstone and Rochester Athletic Club (for-

merly known as GEC Avionics AC).

Since then the club has gone from strength to strength. It has gone on to not only gain national league status in both men's and women's athletics but has also proved itself to be one of the strongest teams in the south of England when competing on the road and cross-country.

Q Are there any athletes we should be keeping an eye on in the future?

A We have a number of athletes who have been awarded international vests this year.

Martin Brockman is one of the country's up and coming decathletes and Lucy Underdown is the country's top young discus thrower. There are several other young athletes who are winning national medals and wearing the England or Britain vest!

Q How strong is athletics in Kent and where does your club rank in the South East?

A Across all age groups and disciplines our club is one of the strongest in Kent. In some areas, for example senior men's cross-country running, the club is the best in Kent and one of the top few in the South East.

Q What more can be done to help our promising young athletes progress with the London 2012 Olympics just four years away?

A Securing two new modern tracks, in Gillingham and at Sutton Valence, for ath-

letes to use in training will give our club a real boost.

It will also allow us to attract new athletes to the club which will ensure we have a continuous stream of talent emerging for future years.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A Running takes a lot of dedication, can be very time consuming and can rule your life if you are not careful. So when not running, going to watch live music and clubbing fills my time, if I'm not eating or sleeping.

Q Tell us something about you not many people know.

A In the middle of winter I train twice a day. This involves training before work and again straight after work and racking up over 100 miles a week.

Thankfully I have an excellent team of training partners to make this enjoyable. Without training partners all distance runners will find training even harder. Oh, and contrary to what people might believe or think, my diet is terrible. I definitely need to make it healthier!

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A Anyone wanting to know more about Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club can visit our club website www.mandmac.org.

Q & A

The long distance runner and team manager of Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club spoke to **Simon Robinson** about the exciting new facilities being built for London 2012 training camps.

Lunch time special menu

Soup of the day

Prawn cocktail salad with a whiskey cocktail sauce
Creamy garlic and parmesan mushrooms topped with mozzarella

Beef bourguignon with new potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables

Poached salmon with a lobster peppercorn sauce

Crespolini filled with mushroom spinach and ricotta served with a summer salad

Bread and butter pudding with fresh fruit filling and a hint of orange

Fresh fruit salad with a cointreau crème Anglaise

Apple and cinnamon crumble with fresh double cream

Two course lunch - £7.95
Three course lunch - £10.95

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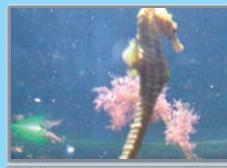
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Rocket man Yves Rossy lands in Kent after crossing the Channel in 10 minutes. Search 'yves'



Uncle Albert lookalike joins cast members at Only Fools and Horses convention in Maidstone. Search 'fools'



What does designer Wayne Hemmingsway know about developing the Thames Gateway? Search 'wayne'



Singer Kayley with the title track from her album 'Chasing Dreams'. Search 'dreams'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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Boris is blasted over 'barmy' airport plan

BY STEVE KNIGHT

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson needs to learn a thing or two about Kent's landscape, says county council leader and fellow Tory, Paul Carter.

Mr Johnson angered residents, environmentalists and politicians alike this week when he suggested a new airport on an artificial island off Sheppey could be the answer to overcrowding at Heathrow.

Cllr Carter has criticised similar proposals in the past and says there is "no hope" of such a scheme being implemented.

He told KOS Media: "I think Mr Johnson's suggestion is a bridge too far."

"All the mist and fog in the autumn and the wind and potential flood problems in the winter would make Sheppey entirely unsuitable for an airport."

"A much better solution would be to expand Manston airport and bring much-needed prosperity to the east of the county."

"We are making our views known to Mr Johnson's office, but the sooner we get together the better."

"I don't think he even knows where Manston is, so clearly needs educating about it. I find it very frustrating when he says things like this and we obviously need to have a chat."

Cllr Carter said he did not expect to be able to speak to Mr Johnson at the Tory party conference this week, but he added he would at one of two meetings the pair will be attending next month.

Mr Johnson's comments also angered members of KCC's Labour group, who say the mayor is trying to placate west London voters opposed to the growth of Heathrow.

Shadow cabinet spokesman Cllr Roger Truelove described it as "another barmy Tory proposal".



NO HOPE: Boris Johnson's comments about an airport near Sheppey have angered KCC leader Paul Carter



He added: "Mr Johnson is clearly putting London first and is showing a complacent disregard for Kent."

"The notion an airport could be built in the Thames estuary and then linked somehow to the high-speed domestic train service from Sittingbourne is schoolboy thinking."

"The investment overheads at a time of cost pressures on the whole air passenger industry are truly prohibitive. Kent has insufficient commercial and passenger hinterland to justify a London airport. All logic suggests the obvious location for growth, if it is really necessary, is to the west of London."

"What strikes me as truly disturbing is that the Mayor of London can make these sorts of remarks with, presumably, no consultation with his colleagues in Kent."

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

highlights the fact that the Thames estuary has one of the biggest groups of special protection areas in Europe and is used by some 300,000 migratory birds.

South East director Chris Corrigan said that to build an airport in it would potentially be "the single biggest piece of environmental vandalism" ever perpetrated in the UK.

He added: "Mr Johnson doesn't seem to have grasped UK law that before you destroy a protected habitat you have to recreate it somewhere else first."

"How do you recreate massive areas of the Thames estuary? And even then he would have to prove there is no alternative site for the expansion anywhere else. It's just ludicrous. We have been here before and the facts remain the same – the idea of an airport in the Thames estuary is a total non-starter."

Good report for foster service

KENT County Council has received good grades in an inspection report from Ofsted on its fostering service.

There are more than 700 foster carers around the county supporting KCC's work in protecting and looking after children. Inspectors spoke to young people, their carers and support staff as part of the review.

The category rated as outstanding was for "helping children make a positive contribution" which covered contact with family and friends, sensitivity to the needs of biological parents and the involvement by children in the planning and delivery of services.

Ofsted inspector Lucy Ansell said in her report: "This is a strong service that delivers good outcomes, with elements of outstanding practice within the specialist services and for positive contribution overall."

KCC's Leyland Ridings said: "I am very pleased with this inspection report, particularly the 'outstanding' rating for a key area of our fostering service. I pay tribute to our foster carers and staff for their work."

"We will continue to work with children and carers to make further improvements and action the recommendations made by the inspection team."

Join the Gurkhas for a celebration

KENT'S Nepalese community is set to celebrate its most renowned festival, Dashera.

The celebration represents the victory of good over evil and symbolises reunion with family and friends.

Guests at the event in Maidstone can expect traditional Nepalese dancing and delicious food.

Hundreds of serving and former Gurkhas, who are recruited from Nepal, live in Kent with their families.

Limbu Ratna, chairman of the county town's Nepalese community organisation, said: "We want to share this special festival with our friends in Maidstone and look forward to welcoming them."

The 15-day national festival traditionally takes place after the rice harvest. The Kent celebration will be at Maidstone Leisure Centre from 7.30-10pm on Friday.

For more information, phone 07828 129 099 or email dkhadka024@yahoo.co.uk.

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Survival event is for a good cause

INVICTA FM's Help a Kent Child has joined with Treejumpers Adventure Centres for a survival challenge.

The challenge at the centre near Longfield on Saturday, October 25, puts forward a military-style scenario in which a spy plane has crashed in the middle of enemy territory in an adventure part-run by the group.

A spokesman for the event said: "You must complete challenges in order to find your way back to the safety of base camp. These will include shelter and fire building, camouflage and concealment, navigation and the day will end with a paintball battle.

"We are also running a fancy-dress theme, so don't forget to come in camouflage or military uniform to really get in the mood."

Everyone entering will receive a T-shirt and everyone completing the challenge will receive a medal commemorating the day.

The spokesman said: "The day will be based around teams of eight to ten. You can either gather together your friends and workmates, or if you want to come along with a couple of friends or on your own, we will put you together with other people to form a team."

To take part and reserve your place, phone 01227 774427, or alternatively log on to www.invictafm.co.uk/charity, or cut out and fill in the entry form (right).

Teams of 10 cost £200 entry fee, or individuals £25. Sponsorship per person should be at least £75.

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HELP A KENT CHILD

Help a Kent Child is Invicta FM's own charity which aims to give the same opportunities to Kent children and young people who experience poverty and disadvantage or who are experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence and crime as well as those who have an illness or disability.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name: Date of Birth: / /

Contact address:
.....
.....

Postcode:

Email address:

Mobile: Daytime phone:

Team Name:

☐ Whilst my objective is to raise as much sponsorship as possible, I make a commitment to raise a minimum of £75 in sponsored donations, which I will bring on the day of the event (post dated cheques to be made out to Help a Kent Child).

☐ By signing and returning this form, I acknowledge that Gcap Charities Limited and Invicta FM Limited (including their employees or agents) shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury to either you or your property (other than as a result of negligence) during or in connection to this event. Any participant who has any concerns about his or her physical condition is advised to consult his/her own doctor before taking part in the event. You are advised to arrange your own personal accident insurance.

Signed Date

Parental/Legal guardian consent (for under 18s)

I, the undersigned, as parent/legal guardian for the person named above, hereby give my consent to his/her participation in the above event and shall ensure that he/she observes all the rules and directions given by any of the organisers of the event while on the premises. Furthermore, I hereby acknowledge and agree that participation in the event is entirely at his/her own risk and Fairbridge Kent, Gcap Charities Limited and Invicta FM Limited (including their employees or agents) shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury to either you, the participant or your respective property (other than as a result of negligence) during or in connection to this event.

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Cathedral set to honour Sir Sandy

A SERVICE of Thanksgiving for the life of Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart is to be held at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday, November 27, starting at 11am.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart was the leader of Kent County Council from 1997 until he retired in 2005. He died earlier this year, aged 66, after a battle with cancer.

The chairman of Kent County Council Peter Lake

said: "He was a true reformer of local government and public services and devoted enormous time and energy to Kent County Council during the eight years he was leader."

Everyone is welcome to pay their respects, although due to the large numbers likely to attend, entrance to the cathedral will be by ticket only.



Stars line up to make Roger's day

BBC Radio Kent's Roger Day is taking a break from his 7pm-10pm evening show to let some big names from the world of comedy, sports presenting and music fill in.

BBC television sports presenter John Inverdale will sit in for Roger today, while comedian and Never Mind the Buzzcocks team captain Phill Jupitus will sit in for Roger tomorrow and Friday.

Managing editor Paul Leaper said: "Roger's show is a big hit with our listeners and serves the important evening audience as they return home from work from all across the region."

"It's great to have so many top-class names from the worlds of music and entertainment keen to take the chance to share their own musical tastes with our audience."

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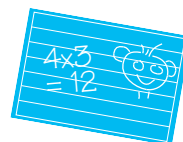


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The world beats a path to prep school's door



GOOD START: The school's early years department was described as outstanding by Government inspectors

TEACHERS from across Europe spent a day shadowing their counterparts at a Maidstone school to learn from its innovative teaching methods.

After receiving funding from the European Union, the Cheltenham-based International Study Programme (ISP) brought 21 educators from Poland, Finland, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden to Kent.

The group travelled to Sutton Valence Preparatory School to learn about its curriculum. The school's early years department was recently described as outstanding by Ofsted inspectors.

The prep school, in Chart Sutton, uses a number of innovative teaching methods, including an early 'brain gym' to activate students' brain cells, and synthetic phonics, the latest favoured method of teaching children to read.

The foreign visitors shadowed the teaching staff for a day as they taught core subjects including English, maths and science.

They were also able to see students learning French, music, design and technology, plus various games and activities.

ISP director Anna Hopwood said: "Many

■ BY ANNA WHITE

schools which have accepted teachers on our behalf in the past have found the experience to be worthwhile and useful links have been established.

"We are very fortunate to be able to give them the opportunity of visiting a school of such high calibre.

"The fact that Sutton Valence Preparatory is an independent school is of added interest to the visiting teachers."

While staying with Maidstone families, the European teachers were able to improve their own English, and enhance their knowledge of Britain and of British culture.

They also visited other towns in the South East, including Tunbridge Wells, Rye and Canterbury, and went on a trip to London.

Craig Gibbs, headmaster at Sutton Valence Preparatory School, said that it was a fantastic opportunity for both sets of teachers to spend time with each other and learn all about how different countries educate their children.

Mr Gibbs is also hoping Sutton Valence Preparatory School staff will be able to visit the schools of the teachers they partnered for the day.

BREAK TIME

MP Ann's engaging insight

MP ANN Widdecombe visited a school to give students an insight into how the British political system works and her life as a Member of Parliament.

The Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald gave the talk to pupils studying government and politics, general studies and public services at Cornwallis Academy in Hubbards Lane, Linton.

Miss Widdecombe gave a first-hand account of life as a MP, how the government operates and the political arena as a whole.

Teacher Sian Adams said: "She came across as someone who thought they could make a difference in people's lives, and was a passionate and thoroughly engaging speaker."

After sharing her experiences with the



group, the MP invited pupils to ask questions. Miss Adams said: "She also encouraged students to work hard in their education and future career paths."

The group of students visited the Houses of Parliament last Wednesday for a tour.

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yourmaidstoneblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...



Your boneheaded boss is just about managing

SURVEYS have long since been used to promote then decry pretty much everything and anything.

Seemingly every foodstuff has its day in the sun as a 'health booster' before someone pops up and highlights its carcinogenic aspects and we're left scratching our heads as to whether it will save us or kill us.

Every survey has an agenda, so you take them with a pinch of salt. Unless, of course, it's another one saying not to eat too much salt.

But last week there was a particularly daft one which consumed the column inches.

Emanating from the US, it claimed men in management with a sexist attitude consistently earned more than those with a more equality-minded attitude.

It didn't suggest that 'goosing' colleagues as you stroll to the canteen might be good for your career prospects, but if you just skimmed the headlines you'd think society was taking something of a backward step.

It was also presented in a way which suggested that a man's worth and status is only

determined by the size of his salary. And, if there is one thing us men do know as a pure, solid fact, it is that size is most definitely not everything.

The headlines proclaimed that 'It pays men to be sexist' and 'There is hope for chauvinistic men after all'.

And, perhaps most irritatingly, it gave those annoying blokes in the office with a chip on their shoulder and a viewpoint straight from that Harry Enfield sketch ('Women - know your limits') some sort of justification for sitting together during their coffee break drawing up lists based on the 'best breasts' in the sales department.

Believe a woman's place in the home and that men are better in the workplace and that pay rise you've got your eye on will be yours (unless, one assumes, your boss is a woman), it would suggest.

Because surely the findings suggest what so many of us already know: that those in positions of power get there by stomping on other people and are just as likely to be obnoxious to women as they are men. Sexism is prevalent

in senior management positions. As James Brown so rightly crooned, it's a man's, man's world, and while that remains the case there is likely to be little desire from blokes with sexist viewpoints to challenge the status quo.

The facts are simple. If you are a right-thinking, equality-supporting man of the 21st century, the reality is you will want to spend your time serving the needs of your family as much as you do climbing the greasy pole.

You'll want evenings where you spend some quality time with your kids, weekends where you do things together as a family, and don't see time outside the nine-to-five as an opportunity purely for networking or business.

Crucially, you probably won't want to join the sexist idiots who do occupy so many senior management positions.

And, despite some whimpering the opposite, that work-life balance is achievable - you just have to work equally as hard at both.

• **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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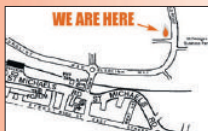


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yourcompetition

WIN a set of hair straighteners

VISITORS to Bluewater should get ready for a fairytale surprise as the Remington Shine Roadshow is coming to town on October 4-5.

Hair consultants and shine angels are holding court to find the UK's shiniest head of hair and transform tired locks with the new Shine Therapy range.

Shoppers can take a break by entering a world of shine and relax while their hair is transformed from frazzled to dazzled. A sanctuary will be created where dreams for gorgeous hair will come true.

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REMINGTON

emitted while styling to create shiny hair.

In the hands of the heroes and heroines of hair customers are promised a magical experience. Shine Angels will also be giving out coupons for £5 off a Shine Therapy dryer (£49.99) or straightener (£69.99) so it is the perfect time to pick up a bargain.

In the meantime we have five sets of straighteners up for grabs.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Remington Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is October 17, 2008.
Question: Where is the Remington Shine roadshow taking place on October 4-5?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

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London Museums	29 Oct	£15
Thorpe Park Halloween Fright Night!	31 Oct	£39
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Bruges By Tunnel - Monday Special	17 Nov	£25
Christmas at Blenheim Palace	22 Nov	£35
Classical Spectacular-Royal Albert Hall & Lunch	23 Nov	£83
Bruges at Christmas - by Tunnel	30 Nov & 7 Dec	£30
Cite Europe Christmas Shopper	2, 9 & 18 Dec	£19
Joseph - The Musical	3 Dec	fr £54
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Arras at Christmas	13 Dec	£30
Ghent at Christmas	14 Dec	£30
Bruges at Christmas by Tunnel	14, 21, 22 Dec	£30
Ostend at Christmas	20 Dec	£30
Ypres at Christmas	20 Dec	£30
Disney High School Musical on Ice	27 & 28 Dec	£45
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TALK TIME

JO BARNES

The manager of the Karen Millen store in Maidstone talks about how sales have been affected by the credit crunch and which celebrities she met at the designer's OBE party.



Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I am 35, I grew up in Penenden Heath and I now live in Loose. I started working in retail when I left school and joined Karen Millen in 1995. I am still enjoying working for them 13 years later.

I recently married Keith Barnes at Chiltern Park in Lenham on April 27 and went to the Maldives for our honeymoon the day after, which was magical. We met in Gabriels bar in Maidstone, now Ethos, when I was 21 and he was 22.

You recently attended Karen Millen's OBE party, how was that?

As I have been with the company for 13 years now, it has been great to see how the brand has developed from a boutique to a luxury global brand.

Karen Millen getting an OBE is fantastic. I had a lovely night and it was nice to catch up with all the old faces from Karen Millen, plus Tito Jackson from the Jackson Five, TV presenter Anthea Turner, model Emma Noble and Faye from Steps, whilst sipping champers.

How much is the highest single sale you have done at Karen Millen?

The highest sale is £1,900, however, I'm not sure why but sadly the buyer no longer shops in our store. The latest high sale is about £1,300, which was spent by a lady who comes in every week; I know what she likes so I hold items for her when they come in.

Have you had any celebrities come into the Maidstone store?

We have had a few, including Kelly Brook, Barry McGuigan, Joe Pasquale, Nancy Sorell and Vic Reeves.

YOUR LETTERS

Unofficial war is declared on drivers

So yet again the speed cameras are to be used to further the war that seems to have been declared on motorists.

It's not about safety at all – what it is about is raising money from a group of people who have taken these assaults all too quietly.

This government seems to have it in for drivers – there are new regulations coming into force constantly and new taxes along with huge hikes in petrol prices.

Vehicles keep this county going – yet those in power seem determined to wring every last pound from the unfortunate motorist.

Mark Ashworth
By email

Move to widen range of speed camera offences

Speed cameras are being used to catch motorists who are caught on a speed camera. The government is now considering widening the range of offences that can be caught by speed cameras. This means that motorists who are caught on a speed camera will be fined for a range of offences, including driving too fast, driving too close to the vehicle in front, and driving too close to the vehicle in front.



Modifications are just another tax

Evermore tenuous but inventive ways to pay for the overstuffed, overbloated, ineffective quangos, while conspicuously unwilling to tackle drink driving.

The speed with which convictions are dropping off for

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Park improvements will depend on heritage fund
Councillors have confirmed that they will apply for a £2m grant to put towards the regeneration of Mote Park. Maidstone council hope the Heritage Lottery Fund will provide 75 per cent of the £2,570,000 facelift. Cllr Brian Moss said "The regeneration will primarily be..."

Local News

- Exchange highlights innovative methods of school
- County Hall action on 'unethical' investments
- Tory big guns line up to speak at party conference
- Trial today to ease Operation Stack nightmare
- Complaints against police force up by 24 per cent

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To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages.

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these partnerships, as drivers realise just how easy it is to avoid cameras means they've got

to invent ways to pay for themselves.

Next it's a fine for wearing an

unfashionable T-shirt, as working to lower convictions is like turkeys voting for Christmas – typical Labour thinking.

Brad, from Maidstone, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.



Lorries don't even bring useful goods

I completely agree with the blogger from last week. There are too many foreign lorries on our roads and they are completely unnecessary in my view.

Last week I spoke to a lorry driver from Poland who I know vaguely. We spoke about the Channel Tunnel fire and the inconvenience it caused him.

Then I asked him, what exactly did he carry into the UK? The answer: a load of cheap plastic dolls manufactured in China.

Now these useless items have gone halfway round the world at enormous cost – not least to the environment. And the question has to be asked – why?

We don't need this sort of rubbish – there are enough cheap toys around for anyone and everyone.

A good way to cut traffic on our roads would be to decide if the stuff coming in is of any use at all. If not it should stay in China or wherever else it originates.

Bryan Collinson
From West Malling, by email



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Doing the homework on our energy, Bill

Bill Hyde enquires as to the nature of my doctorate (Teach our children about renewables, Yourmaidstone letters September 17 issue). My doctoral thesis is on Austria's nuclear power prohibition law and European Union membership. For the doctorate I researched Austrian, European and international

We need to consider low points in energy

I am delighted that Dr Dawe writes with knowledge of energy and legal liabilities, and I will accord her words due respect on those subjects. I hope she will reciprocate appropriately.

Having spent a working life ensuring electricity supply reliability, what do I see today?

Since September 12, the Azores High has engulfed the UK, the Baltic, Europe, Russia, the Caspian Sea, the Balkans, the Mediterranean, with typical anticyclonic light winds.

Combining Met Office wind speeds with turbine makers' performance data, I calculate a UK-wide installation of wind farms would be averaging 5 MW per 100 MW installed, sometimes under 0.5 MW.

Anticyclones come five or six times a year, winter and summer. Yet the Greenpeace spokesman, commenting on the EDF/British Energy deal, said on TV that we can supply all our electricity needs with renewables.

Germany is lauded as the most

successful nation with renewable energy, generously subsidised.

Today's anticyclone has hit them too – on September 19 their lowest point was 17 MW at 8 am, from an installation of 22,880 MW. See for yourself on Reisi Wind.

Dozens of other nations are building or planning nuclear to avoid blackouts, as traditional generation is retired.

Wind power can collapse, solar power is always zero after dark, wave power is strongly linked to wind and world prices for fossil fuels escalate, and there's CO₂.

We buy two million nuclear KW from France near continuously – cheaper than generating with gas.

France is embarking on a fleet of third generation reactors to increase their lucrative exports. Shall we buy? Or make it here, burning nuclear waste from the 50s?

Today, nuclear is the only way we know how to generate reliable electricity, CO₂-free.

Lastly, my home is heated by off-peak electricity, mostly generated by British plus French nuclear. CO₂ free, it costs me 4.79p/KWH. More cheap nuclear could replace domestic gas.

Bill Hyde, DFH, C. Eng, FIET, from Offham, by email.

We still need to make more people aware

I am writing on behalf of Meningitis Research Foundation to thank everyone from the South East who participated in our Meningitis B Aware Campaign on September 15-21.

Members and supporters all

across the region undertook various activities to raise awareness of the dangers of meningitis and septicaemia. As a result of their work, hundreds of free B Aware symptoms packs have been requested by the public through our Freephone 24 hour helpline 08088 003344 or website, www.meningitis.org and more are still coming in today.

The aim of the week was to raise awareness of the dangers of meningitis and septicaemia, the blood poisoning form, and provide free symptoms packs to the public. There are nine cases of the disease every day in the UK with a death almost every day and a further two people will be left with life-altering after effects as severe as brain damage, deafness and multiple amputations. Knowing the symptoms and acting fast will save lives.

The campaign was aided by the dedication of foundation members – people with experience of meningitis and septicaemia. Our members gave up their time to help by putting on fund-raising events and sharing their experience of meningitis with the media.

Public support is vital to our cause as only one per cent of our income comes from government funding. We rely almost entirely on voluntary donations to continue our vital research into meningitis and septicaemia, raising awareness and providing support for those affected. For more information on how you can help or to receive a free symptoms awareness pack call 01454 281811.

Pin A Collacott
Head of communications,
Meningitis Research

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STARS IN THE MAKING: Sons of Alpha Centauri star on The Ether



JUMP TO IT: Black Kids get the crowd rocking during a gig in Kent

The Kent chart

1. Steve Furlong - Nothing (from Birchington)
2. Kayley Weller - A Long Drive Home (from Deal)
3. D-Finitive - Space (Tenterden)
4. Ron Bowdry - Strange Sights On Bluebell Hill (from New Eltham)
5. Springtide Cavalry - No Short Cut (from Folkestone)

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A world of entertainment



SOMETHING SPECIAL: Camera Obscura (left) and Jose Gonzalez (right) are just two of the nine acts lined-up to perform at this year's forthcoming Canterbury Festival

COUNCIL events organisers have all the fun.

From what I can gather, the powers-that-be hand down a vague list of demands and a moderate budget to said organisers who then get on and, erm, organise things.

The trick, it would seem, is in organising something that we hard-paying taxpayers actually want.

With this in mind I tip my cap to the team behind next month's Canterbury Festival, and in particular the people responsible for sorting out the 'world music' line-up - they've done a sterling job.

Among the nine acts on show across the two week festival are a group of Buddhist monks, a Senegalese orchestra, Mick Fleetwood (yes, the Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac fame) and cult Scottish indie rockers Camera Obscura.

I think it's fair to say the organisers have come good on both the 'world' and 'music' parts of their brief.

Here's a run-down of my top five musical picks of the festival:

1) CAMERA OBSCURA

• If you are not a huge Camera Obscura fan

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

then the only explanation is that you can't have heard any of their music. There is no other alternative. Songs such as Lloyd I'm Ready To Be Heartbroken, Eighties Fan and Tears for Affairs are classic toe-tappers and achingly beautiful. The Scottish six-piece play the Marlowe Theatre on Thursday, October 16. Doors at 7.30pm. Tickets start at £12, £8 for students.

2) SHLOMO AND THE VOCAL ORCHESTRA

• Shlomo's 'orchestra' is made up of eight beatboxers. Through the power of co-ordination and timing, they rock. The festival's official guide bills Shlomo as leading "the most of-the-moment vocal group in high-energy performance of amazing beatboxing feats and jaw-dropping vocal interpretations". They rock. Catch them at the Gulbenkian Theatre on Monday, October 20. Doors open at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £14, £12 for students.

3) JOSE GONZALEZ

• Jose's big break came courtesy of Sony's 'bouncing balls' TV advert, to which he supplied his version of Heartbeats. A gold

and platinum award-winning top-ten album later, the Argentinian-Swedish singer songwriter comes to the Marlowe Theatre on Friday, October 17. Doors at 8pm. Tickets start at £18.50.

4) THE MICK FLEETWOOD BLUES BAND

• This gig includes a tribute to the original Fleetwood Mac, the all-male blues band that started it all in 1967. Featuring former Mac singer and lead guitarist Rick Vito and Mr Mick Fleetwood himself, this is one performance not to be missed. Mick and co take to the Marlowe Theatre on Saturday, October 25. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets range from £26.50-£28.50.

5) THE MAGNETS

• I'll be honest, I don't know much about The Magnets, but the pre-festival bumpf describes them as a "sharp-suited all-male a cappella sextet who perform with unrivalled sophistication, charisma and flair". To quote the film Jerry Maguire, "You had me at hello". The Magnets play the Gulbenkian Theatre on Wednesday, October 22. Doors open at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £14, £2 less for students.

• For more information on the two-week festival visit www.canterburyfestival.co.uk.

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PETITE, fun, friendly, bright and bubbly. Bored of being single, looking for a lovely man to take me out. Box 895349 TXT

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MATURE female, 60, 5'8, slim, ash blonde hair, enjoys eating out and going to the cinema, WLTm a trustworthy and kind male with gosh. Box 444585 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY lady with nice smile, 62, 5'3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoys dancing, walking, eating/lying, animals, seeking loving man for friendship/long term relationship. Box 443171 TXT

ATTRACTION and friendly female, 36, caring, considerate, outgoing, loves to travel and walks on beaches, seeks similar male for potential long term romance. Box 442392 TXT

BRUNETTE female, 35yrs old, single mum, enjoys socialising, DIY, romantic moments and family activities, WLTm a male with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. Box 442393 TXT

FUN-LOVING single mum, 37, 5'8, loves going out, staying in and having fun, WLTm a male to be my knight in shining armour. Box 443290 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5'8, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and love. Box 428668 TXT

CUTE single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for a friendly and possibly romance. Box 897983 TXT

BRIGHT bubbly curvy female, 38, a teacher, loves reading, travelling, swimming, cooking, WLTm adventurous male to share life and hopefully more with. Turnbridge Wells. Box 444628 TXT

NURSE, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5'8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male. Box 431557 TXT

LOVELY single mum, 38, 5'8, blonde, slim build, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTm similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 372889 TXT

DEAL-BASED lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5'10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430894 TXT

HARD WORKING female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 441156 TXT

PETITE, fun, friendly, bright and bubbly. Bored of being single, looking for a lovely man to take me out. Box 895349 TXT

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HI, I'm Mark, 32yrs, brown hair & eyes, muscular build, blue eyes, I'm easy-going, I like to go to the cinema, WLTm a trustworthy and kind male with gosh. Box 444585 TXT

HI, I'm big Mike, 35, 6'8, blue eyes, gosh, looking for a nice, bubbly female, 35-45, with great personality and gosh for friendship/love. Box 444615 TXT

CIVIL servant, 36, caring, sharing, GSOH, brown eyes, short brown hair, 5'11, likes the gym, pubs, travelling, reading, cooking, music, seeking a fun-loving, nice lady for loyalty and love. Box 437106 TXT

SLIM, fit and fun builder, 36, 5'10, enjoys snow boarding, WLTm a female to have some fun with and see where the road takes us. Box 444723 TXT

SELF-EMPLOYED male, 37, 6'11, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, enjoys the gym, pubs, clubs, restaurants, WLTm female for long term relationship. Box 443085 TXT

I'M Stuart, 36, 6'8, short dark hair, stocky build, love squash, badminton, swimming, the gym, theatre, seeking a fun-loving, nice lady for loyalty and love. Box 437106 TXT

HONEST, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights out, family life, WLTm like-minded, genuine female, Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440 TXT

LEE, driver, 36yrs old, 6'3, dark hair, brown eyes, likes wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, with a woman for friendship and romance. Box 898970 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 36, short spiky brown hair, likes dancing, socialising, films, wltm nice, single, honest female, 30-42, for a relationship. Maidstone. Box 401597 TXT

ATHLETIC male, 36, 5'8, brown hair green eyes, likes the gym, stays in shape, into salsa, wine/dining, theatre/cinema, walks, WLTm slim female to share life with. Box 444144 TXT

PLEASANT male, 39, 6ft tall, medium build, brown hair, enjoys rock music and socialising, with a genuine lady for a fun friendship, maybe romance later. Box 441326 TXT

HI, I'm a down-to-earth, reliable, honest, like keeping fit, going out, meals out, watching movies, seeking similar lady for lasting love & happiness. Box 898945 TXT

HI, I'm a down-to-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves out doors, sports, beach walks etc, with an outgoing female for good times. Box 898904 TXT

CARING single dad, 41, 5'10", average build, young-looking, WLTm lady for friendship evenings out, maybe more. Recently got smothered E Sussex. Box 963530 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, fun-loving male, 42, 5'8, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys eating out with a nice romantic lady for a great life of love, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762 TXT

I am 42, medium build, 5'10, not fat lots of tattoos, blue eyes, shaved head, seeking a female 20-50 to start again and find love with. Box 440021 TXT

52YRS, 5'6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly romance. Box 414143 TXT

PHIL, 43, 5'8, athletic build, good appearance, easygoing, nice guy, 26-42, caring, seeking similar female 26-42 to find love with Hastings. Box 443988 TXT

VERY easygoing, laid-back male, 43, 5'8, slim, hard-working, likes honesty, socialising, eating out, evenings in, seeking loving, caring, honest, sincere female for love. Box 443719 TXT

CARING and loving male, 43, average looks, self-employed, enjoys wild life, sci-fi and gardening, WLTm a petite female, 30-50, for a LTR. Box 444712 TXT

SPORTY male, 43, 5'8, average looks, enjoys most things in life, WLTm a slim female for friendship and love. Box 444738 TXT

GENUINE male, 43, 6'4, slim build, enjoys working in cinema, going to the pub and gardening, WLTm similar lady for a long-term relationship. Box 444712 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim male, 43yrs old, 5'10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, with a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate. Box 444712 TXT

KIND gent, 43, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6, slim-medium build, average looks, seeking female 37-57 to enjoy holidays, music, cinema, meals and more with. Box 444712 TXT

ATHLETIC male, 43, 6ft, brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoy all the fine things in life, WLTm a caring and loving female for a LTR. Box 444794 TXT

ANDY, single male, 40yrs old, tall, short brown hair, blue eyes, 6ft, looking to meet female, 30-41 yrs old, for fun times, maybe more. Box 887086 TXT

GOOD guy, 44, 5'8, medium build, non-smoker, but brown eyes/dark hair, I work unassociable hours but would love to make time for the right person. Box 444178 TXT

MUSCULAR male, 44, 5'8, blue eyes, enjoys keeping fit and good company, WLTm a female, 32-44, for fun and friendship, maybe more. Box 444075 TXT

ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks honest, warm, trusting female. Box 408508 TXT

PROFESSIONAL male, 45, own home/car, enjoys cinema, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 426022 TXT

HI, there, 45yrs old male, 6ft, looking for a relationship with the right person, gosh essential, romantic times guaranteed. Box 884774 TXT

SLIM, fit, loving and very caring male, 46, enjoys football, swimming and going out for walks, WLTm an honest and considerate female for a LTR. Box 444559 TXT

SCORPIO male, 46, 6'3, German, brown hair, brown eyes, seeking pretty woman with sex appeal for romantic times and perhaps lasting love. Box 444673 TXT

WHITE male, 46, 5'8, easygoing, n/s, loves a laugh, enjoys theme parks, concerts, romantic walks, with a female to be happy with, Gosh no problem. Box 444539 TXT

SEAFORD male, 46, 5'10, green eyes, light brown hair, attractive, GSOH, interested in music, bowling and love theatre/cinema, animal, WLTm like-minded lady for love. Box 444055 TXT

KIND, caring and considerate gentleman, 46,

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ANDROGYNOUS: Boy George's striking looks and outrageous dressing made him stand out from the crowd in his home town of Eltham

Yes we can
be inspired

Boy George brings some culture to Kent

THE boy is back in town as one of Britain's most striking vocalists brings his stunning voice to entertain Kent audiences.

After enjoying successful concerts earlier this year, the former Culture Club singer is back in the county ahead of the release of his new single on October 12. He has been so inspired by the US presidential campaign of Democrat candidate Barack Obama that the new song, Yes We Can, contains samples from Obama's stirring speeches.

But although George is backing Obama – potentially the first black president – above his Republican rival John McCain, he stressed that the song is not about politics.

"It's about me, what I've been going through," he said. "It was just inspirational in the sense that Obama's got quite a hopeful approach, if you look at what's been going on in the last few years with the right wing."

"What he has to offer is lighter and

BOY GEORGE

Thursday, October 2
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

gentler and he has great charisma."

George, 47, clearly relates to Obama's message, but the song also marks a new perspective on the fame which has proved to be a mixed blessing in the past.

George O'Dowd was born in Eltham, London, the third eldest of seven children. Attention was hard to come by so George expressed his individuality by dressing outrageously. His androgynous look caught the attention of pop guru Malcolm McLaren, the man behind the Sex Pistols, and George began appearing with a group called Bow Wow Wow.

Shortly afterwards George formed his own band, Culture Club. The debut album, Kissing To Be Clever, was released in 1982 and the third single, Do You Really Want To Hurt Me?, was their first major hit. It reached the number one spot in 16 countries and number two in

America, making a star of eye-catching vocalist Boy George.

But chart success was coupled with drug addiction, along with harsh media scrutiny of his personal life, and the group disbanded just four years later.

George initially enjoyed a successful solo career during the late 80s and early 90s, but the hits began to dry up and he gradually turned his attention to the club scene where he has become a leading DJ.

He has had a series of brushes with the law over the last few years, including arrests on suspicion of cocaine possession and, most recently, false imprisonment.

But, armed with a fresh perspective and his outstanding soul voice, Boy George is inviting fans to join him on a new musical journey.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £25/£23. Call the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or book online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk. Boy George will also be appearing at The Churchill in Bromley on Thursday, October 30.

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with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



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PLANT A TREE

Saturday, October 4
Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest, Goudhurst

VISITORS will have the chance to take Bedgebury's magnificent trees home with them this weekend.

It will be some years before they reach the size of the Pinetum's splendid specimens, but visitors can pot up seeds to plant at home on Saturday. Admire the leaves on thousands of trees as they turn to warm autumnal reds and golds and look out for rare birds on the 2,000 acre-site. The crossbill and hawfinch have both been spotted on the estate at Goudhurst.

For a cost of £2 each, young people can pot up a seed and take it home with them to start a forest of their own.

Visitors can stroll around the site to take in the spectacle at a leisurely pace or hire a bike and hit the 10km cycling trail for a really active day out.

There will be a day of cre-



ative activities at Bedgebury on October 28 as the site takes part in The Big Draw, the UK's biggest free art

event. For details of this and other activities call 01580 879820 or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury.

SWEENEY TODD

Wednesday to Saturday,
October 8-11
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

THE Demon Barber of Fleet Street will be paying a visit to Maidstone in a production of Sweeney Todd.

Performed by the Stage Theatre Society, Sweeney Todd is an award-winning musical that tells a grisly story. A cast of 35 will bring Stephen Sondheim's difficult music score to life, accompanied by a 14-piece professional orchestra.

Grief-stricken by the death of his wife and loss of his daughter, Sweeney Todd wreaks revenge on society by giving his customers more than a close shave. His new friend Mrs Lovett, the struggling proprietor of an adjacent pie shop, offers to dispose of his victims by cooking their flesh in her meat pies. This leads to a revival of her fortunes but when suspicions are aroused, further tragedy beckons.

Tim Burton's recent blockbuster, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, was rated certificate 18 but the stage version is more of a black comedy than a horror - with lots of fake blood thrown into the mix.

To book tickets call the box office on 01622 758611 or Stage Theatre Society on 07770 802482.



ROD PICOTT

Monday, October 6
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

ONE of America's best singer/songwriters, Rod Picott has been winning fans in the UK for several years.

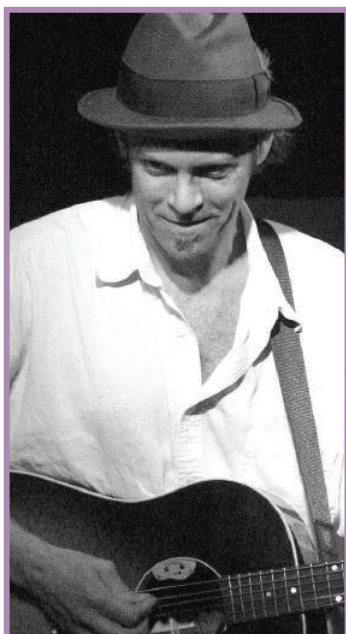
Now a regular visitor to our shores, Picott maintains a hectic gigging schedule and has become a huge hit in small listening venues up and down the country. Despite earning rave reviews for his albums and landing his own weekly showcase in Nashville in the 90s, Picott remains something of an underground talent.

Growing up in Maine, Picott was exposed to both his father's and older brother's record collections, resulting in eclectic influences from Ray Charles to The Clash.

Driving a merchandise truck on one of singer Alison Krauss's tours led to Picott getting the chance to open her show, when their mutual manager suggested him for a vacant slot. Krauss returned the favour by singing on his second album.

Picott will be appearing with talented young Texan fiddle player Amanda Shires, who currently fronts popular West Texas country band the Thrift Store Cowboys.

They will be supported by London-based Lotte Mullan. The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £9 in advance or £11 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.



MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Curious about cabaret? Come and see the show

ONE of the country's top showgirls, Ivy Paige, will be bringing her Curiosity Cabaret act to Maidstone this week.

Originally from Rainham, Paige fuses song, storytelling, stand-up comedy and striptease to create an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

She will be appearing at Mu Mu in Week Street on Friday at 8.30pm. Tickets are £10 on the door or via the website www.ivypaige.co.uk.

Golden blooms to fill castle during festival

CELEBRATE the colours of the new season with Leeds Castle's Autumn Gold Flower Festivals.

The event runs at the castle near Maidstone until Sunday, it will feature fantastic floral arrangements in each room and the chance to vote for your favourite display.

The castle grounds are open from 10am to 5pm daily and the castle is open from 10.30am to 4pm. Tickets cost £15/£12.50 for adults and £9.50 for children. For more information call 01622 765400 or visit www.leeds-castle.com.

Leaping lizards! Annie is coming to the stage

RUTH Madoc leads the cast of Annie The Musical when it arrives at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells next week.

From Wednesday to Saturday, October 8-11, the orphan Annie and chums will be regaling audiences with classics such as A Hard Knock Life and Tomorrow. Madoc plays Miss Hannigan in a role which has brought her much acclaim.

Tickets are priced £18.50 to £27.50. Call 01892 530613/532072 or www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Comedy songs are much more than a side show

ALLOW Side Show Gez to entertain you with a selection of great music and comedy songs tomorrow night.

The solo performer will be singing songs from the 20s up to the present day, including amusing ditties from a host of comedy greats. He will be at the Druid Arms in Earl Street, Maidstone, at 9pm.

See www.myspace.com/sideshowgez for more about him. For more details about the venue call the pub on 01622 758516.

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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Build your own Pudsey for Children in Need

YOUNGSTERS can make their own version of BBC Children in Need mascot Pudsey at a shopping centre and help raise money for the charity.

The Build-A-Bear Workshop will have the bears at Fremlin Walk from this morning for the next month, with £5 from each £15 bear going to the appeal.

Bear-makers can also dress their Pudsey in a Children in Need T-shirt for £5, with £1 from this going to the charity, which helps abused and neglected children across the UK.

Build-A-Bear Workshop founder Maxine Clark said: "We are delighted to announce our new charity partnership with BBC Children in Need. This charity has a special place in the hearts of the people in the UK and we are very honoured to be supporting this programme."

Emma Bradley, BBC Children in Need's external affairs director, said: "We are very excited to be working with Build-A-Bear Workshop this year."

"Children are at the heart of everything we do and Pudsey is such a loveable character, so it's wonderful children will be able to make their very own."

Anyone making a Pudsey can register their bear online and receive various games and accessories.

Pucker up with a surge of colour from Clinique

GETTING lippy with a Clinique product will help raise funds for a good cause during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

During October the popular Colour Surge Butter Shine Lipstick, £12, will be available in exclusive pink ribbon packaging and comes with a silver lipstick case. For each lipstick sold £2 will be donated to the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.

The limited edition lipsticks will be available from Clinique counters at Boots in King Street and Fremlin Walk.

Intense diamond scent could be your destiny

DIAMONDS really are a girl's best friend with the launch of Emporio Armani's latest fragrance.

Fronted by Destiny's Child star Beyonce Knowles, Diamonds Intense is a sensual perfume with notes of raspberry nectar, rose, patchouli and bourbon vanilla. With an added intensity, the new gold scent comes in a bottle faceted like a diamond with gold highlights.

Emporio Armani Diamonds Intense is available exclusively at The Perfume Shop, including at The Mall Chequers store, priced from £32.50.

Help your hair to shine with a visit to roadshow

SHOPPERS can have their hair transformed this weekend at the Remington Shine Roadshow at Bluewater.

Customer's hair will be treated with Shine Technology at a fairytale-inspired sanctuary inside the shopping centre on Saturday and Sunday, before they are invited to enter a competition to find the UK's Shiniest Head of Hair.

The Shine Angels will also hand out coupons for £5 off each purchase of Shine Therapy Straightener, priced at £69.99, and Shine Therapy Dryer, which costs £49.99.



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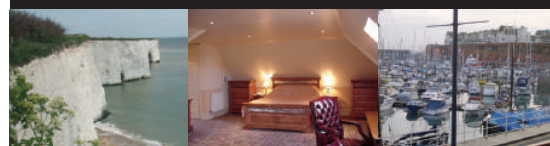
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YOUR TV REVIEW



THE FAMILY

Channel 4, 9pm, Wednesday



DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

Channel 4, 10pm, Wednesday

BY TOM BETTS

IF there's a clear lesson we can learn from the first two episodes of Channel 4's *The Family* – it's never have kids.

Or more to the point, never have daughters, because they grow up to be teenage girls. And that is what they call a rocky road.

Canterbury's Hughes family have allowed the cameras into their home for 100 days and 100 nights, for an all-access documentary.

Brave or foolhardy is something you'll have to decide, with the third episode airing tonight.

Driving dad Simon – a man for whom the term long-suffering could have been solely coined – slowly round the bend are teenage daughters Emily (at 19 the self-confessed 'wild child' of the family) and Charlotte (16, the clever one, who wants to leave school).

As the patriarch slowly goes crackers and takes mum, Jane, with him, we get to watch what goes on from inside the four walls.

As infuriating as this can be, it must be said that in between the rowing and the raised voices over bedroom messes the Hughes, for my money, come across pretty well.

The aim of the show is to present an accurate portrait of family life and it is certainly mission accomplished.

For every second that seems ghastly, there is another that can be touching.

And for each moment of tear your hair out frustration at a conversation going round in circles, there's a knowing smile that defuses a situation – we've all been there.



POINTLESS: Eva Longoria (above) and the cast of *Desperate Housewives* are slowly losing the plot

The poignancy of *The Family* is made all the more apparent by the increasingly naff *Desperate Housewives* which follows immediately after.

Teri Hatcher and her pals are continuing to plough the furrow of ridiculousness in a show which seems to be more a showcase for the actresses' plastic surgeons than it is for serial drama.

Quite what is going on now is anybody's guess and any semblance of cult buzz has long since up and left.

What's most surprising though is the sense that the makers still think this is in some way relevant, cutting-edge television when, really, it's looking as dated as its four lead actresses and hideously twee storylines.

Series one seemed to have a point, a storyline that gelled it altogether, but now it looks more like an ultra glossy soap opera for rehab patients dosed up on Prozac.

Desperate is a big understatement.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A LOVING friend or caring business colleague knows just what to do to make you feel better. Lean on them during times of trial. Changing a large organisation's outlook or attitude may be easier than you think, thanks to your knowledge and experience.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

WHAT seems like a great job could have hidden strings attached. It may be necessary to make an investment in the company or get additional training at your own expense. Think carefully before taking this step. You may be better off with an organisation that requires less of you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

TAKE all the rumours you hear with a grain of salt this week. Always question a person's motives when they're serving up some juicy information. An intense colleague could show you how to channel your frustrations into work. Be willing to follow their suggestions.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

CUTTING yourself off from the world won't give you the peace and quiet you seek. If you're going for true tranquillity you need to make amends with a relative or neighbour. Be first to extend the olive branch. The fact is that you are both guilty or being a little pig-headed.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

DON'T be so generous with your time and money or someone will take advantage of you. There's nothing wrong with this, but when you start having to make economies for the sake of freeloaders, there is a problem. A spiritual inclination may prompt you to disregard material concerns.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 23-Jun 22)

A NEW hobby could be demanding too much of your time and relatives will start to resent this interest. Strive for more balance. A strong-willed friend can show you a better way of handling your personal affairs. Be prepared to hear some difficult home truths from this person.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

JUST because you're making more money doesn't mean the supply is endless. Yes, it's fun to indulge your whims, but it shouldn't be at the cost of your long-term security. Never underestimate the bliss of early retirement. Imagine having the opportunity to travel the world.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOUR connection with a well-heeled group of people could be a drain on your money. Stop agreeing to visit to restaurants and expensive emporiums. The sooner you drop the façade of being independently wealthy, the faster friends will own up to their own financial situations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

DON'T expect too much from a friend, business partner or lover. Their capacity for giving is starting to wear thin. If you want to call upon someone's expertise, be prepared to pay for it. Model your behaviour after someone you have always admired.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN upsurge of emotion could interfere with your career. You've got to fight to keep your personal and professional lives separate. A physical relationship will be a welcome distraction from all the stress. If your boss tries to give you more work, put your foot down.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT won't be so easy to turn over a new leaf as you think. Certain emotional traits are deeply ingrained. If you really want to change you may need the help of a counsellor. This expert can get to the root of your trouble and teach you strategies for coping with stressful situations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A POSITION of importance isn't all it's cracked up to be. You may not have as much authority as you were promised. This makes it difficult for you to reach your objectives. Don't make another move until the problem is cleared up to your satisfaction or your reputation will suffer.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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4 Rabbit's tail (4)
5 Dummy pill (7)
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7 A combining with water (9)
13 Rain-clouds (5)
14 Oppose (9)
16 Kiss and cuddle (8)
18 Snake (8)
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20 Slanting (7)
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25 Old Testament priest (4)

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ACROSS: 8 Liquorice 9 Latly 10 Mayorality
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DOWN: 1 Hijack 2 Cup of tea 3 Breather 4
Scot 5 Placebo 6 Virginia 7 Hydration 13
Ophidian 19 Heavyset 20 Sloping 22 Exiled
25 Ezra

A photograph showing two men from behind, practicing archery. They are wearing traditional-style clothing: dark blue or black short-sleeved shirts with a sash, and light-colored trousers. They are holding longbows and arrows, aiming upwards. The setting is an open grassy field with a dense line of green trees in the background. A white fence is visible in the lower part of the frame. The image is framed with a green border.

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Going green in the Caribbean sun

BY PETER WOODMAN

MOST people go to Antigua to get brown, but now the islanders are keen for visitors to go green.

So environmentally conscious has the island become that a new eco-friendly hotel has opened: the Verandah Resort and Spa on Long Bay. Its neat, low-rise buildings are surrounded by 30 unspoilt acres on the east coast, overlooking a powder-soft, sandy beach.

It was 10 years since we had last visited Antigua and after our comfortable Virgin Atlantic flight we were eager to renew our acquaintance as we touched down at the small and quiet VC Bird International Airport.

As so often happens abroad, our taxi driver was more tour guide than cabbie. He was proud to point out a beautiful cricket ground that has been created within the airport complex.

Heading across the island, we passed the main Test ground too, named in honour of the island's most famous player, Sir Vivian Richards.

Because Antigua is a small island, with just 76,000 people, everyone seems to know everyone else. The taxi driver knows Sir Viv. Our waiter went to school with fast bowler Andy Roberts, another giant of West Indies cricket in its golden era.

Our first impression was that everything had smartened up since we were last here. What we remembered as run-down shacks



ISLAND LIFE: The sagging US dollar has brought paradise a little closer, helped by Antigua's Verandah Resort and Spa

had been given a good lick of paint and looked rather cosy as holiday boltholes. Roads in the Caribbean are never going to get you anywhere fast, but even so we managed to reach the Verandah within an hour of touching down.

The resort has been created on the quieter, eastern side of the island. The Atlantic side of Caribbean islands is always the less-developed and windier coast, with most of the luxury resorts on the west.

Although it is certainly breezy at Verandah, the resort lies on a tranquil bay and is largely screened from the windy Atlantic, with its 200 white-painted, cottage-style villas glinting in the sunshine.

They have private balconies with sea views, and every air-conditioned bedroom has a king-size bed.

The Verandah has made a commitment to meet the highest environmental standards and management are quick to point out its green credentials.

These include the rational use of energy and

water, the use of biodegradable cleaning materials, supporting a carbon offset programme and buying sustainable goods from local producers.

Although perfect for couples who can happily laze around the pools and relax on the largely deserted beaches, the Verandah pitches itself as a family resort.

If you don't want to be pampered in the spa, the options for sporting action include windsurfing, snorkelling, kayaking and tennis.

There is a children's club that includes an activity centre built from locally-sourced timber. Uninhabited islands such as Green Island and Bird Island can be reached in a few minutes, too.

This summer, prices are likely to be particularly attractive due to the sagging US dollar, which has such a critical influence on the Caribbean economy.

Check out the prices and you might be pleasantly surprised to find how cheaply you can go green at this time of year, on one of the most beautiful islands in the world.

FACT FILE: ANTIGUA



Time difference	UK minus 5 hrs
Capital	St John's
Population	76,000
Language	English
Climate	Tropical
Religion	Christianity
Currency	East Caribbean dollar

Travel details

- Peter Woodman flew to Antigua as a guest of Virgin Atlantic Airways and stayed at The Verandah Resort & Spa (www.verandahresortandspa.com), a member of Elite Island Resorts.
- Virgin Holidays offers seven nights all-inclusive at Verandah Resort & Spa from £1,199 during June, incl return flights ex-Gatwick and transfers.
- Prices based on two adults sharing during June, and for October-December 2008.
- A special offer, running until December 20, offers a room upgrade, with first child under-16 staying and eating for free.
- Virgin reservations: 0844 5573 859/www.virgin-holidays.com.



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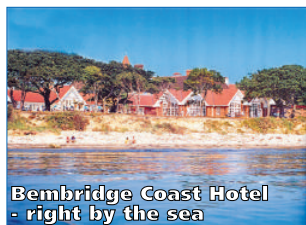
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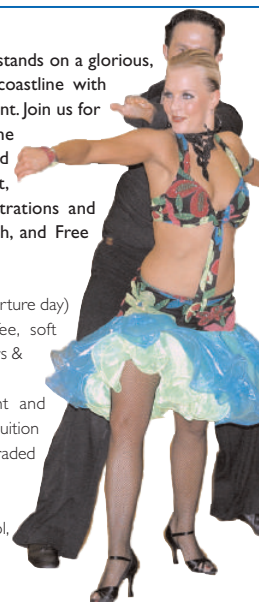
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PROPERTY NEWS

Hide Rover in the cupboard

HOME renovations could leave you out of pocket during the credit crunch, according to a survey.

Research carried out by Abbey found that previously profitable improvements, such as extensions and new kitchens, can leave you poorer in the current climate.

According to the study, the more laid out, the more lost, because the cost of the work will not be reflected in the sale price.

The average cost of an extension is £33,800, but it would add only about £13,500 to the property's price, according to the report.

Abbey recommends less expensive modifications to achieve the best price, including:

- Get the decorators in. The average cost of painting and decorating a home is £1,330, but the cosmetic improvement adds £3,557 to its value.
- Do it yourself. A study by Alliance and Leicester shows almost a third of homeowners are planning to save money by doing their own improvements.
- Clean is beautiful. Hire a steam cleaner to sort out carpets and upholstery.
- Maximise natural light. It is possible to shift difficult homes by removing net curtains.
- Get rid of clutter. Use eBay and Gumtree. Donate or swap stuff on freecycle.org. Charities such as the Salvation Army may also be able to pick up bulky items from your home.
- Hide the dog/children. Smelly pets and messy children can put buyers off.

Haven amid the global turmoil

PROPERTY is a better and safer investment than stocks and shares in the global economic slump, according to portfolio managers from the Young Group.

Experts analysing the market said in the last 55 years UK house prices have had an annual fall in just five, whereas the FTSE 100 index has never reached the peak of December 1999 in the years since.

The firm also pointed out property cannot lose its entire value overnight, unlike shares.

"Property investment is a tangible asset and easy to comprehend," said a spokesman.

Five golden rules can ensure you find the best mortgage deal

BY NICK AMES

SWITCHING to a better mortgage deal can save homeowners thousands of pounds and help ride out the economic downturn.

But be careful – arrangement fees can undermine the savings that can be made.

With the average arrangement fee now in excess of £1,000 it's crucial people compare the total cost and don't get sucked in by a low interest rate, according to consumer watchdog Which? Money.

A new survey found the interest rate was the main reason that one in four people who responded selected their current mortgage.

Experts say this approach can be misleading as hefty fees can increase the cost of a deal significantly.

Just one in five chose their mortgage because of the overall cost of the deal.

For the second year running, First Direct was rated best in the Which? Money mortgage lender satisfaction survey, with an overall customer satisfaction score of 90 per cent.

Which? Money's five golden rules for getting a good mortgage deal are:

- 1 Shop around. Don't choose a mortgage lender simply because you already bank with it.
- 2 Check the overall cost of the deal. Don't get sucked in by a low interest rate as it could have hefty fees attached.
- 3 Avoid paying the standard rate. Consider switching to avoid reverting to the standard variable rate when your deal ends.
- 4 Do your homework. Some of the best deals are not available through advisers, so do your own research as well.
- 5 Don't buy insurance from your lender. Most lenders aren't Which? Money Best Buy home insurers, so shop around to save money.



WRITE IDEA: Doing your research before signing on the dotted line can save hundreds in mortgage costs

Martyn Hocking, the editor of Which? Money, said: "The cost of mortgages has soared in the last couple of years, but a lot of the focus has been on what's happening with interest rates when in fact it's the total cost of the deal that's important."

"Arrangement fees are now more than £1,000 on average and sometimes much high-

er, which means that an eye-catching interest rate can be misleading.

"Whatever you do, don't take the lazy option of simply taking out a deal with your bank or staying on your lender's standard variable rate. If you shop around and do your homework, you could cut your mortgage costs by hundreds of pounds."

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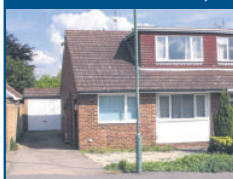
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• First Floor Apartment • One Bedroom • Lounge / Diner • Kitchen Area

MAIDSTONE £185,000



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• Modern Terraced House • 3 Bedrooms • Lounge / Dining Room • Kitchen

MAIDSTONE £239,995



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• Second Floor Apartment • Elevated Views From Balcony • Gated Development

MAIDSTONE £279,995



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• Semi Detached House • 4 Bedrooms • Garage And Driveway • 2 Reception Rooms

DOWNSWOOD £172,500



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• Modern Semi Detached Home • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen/Dining Room

BEARSTED £170,000



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• First Floor Maisonette • Two Bedrooms • Fitted Kitchen • Lounge

MAIDSTONE £169,950



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• Semi Detached House • Three Bedrooms • Extended Kitchen • Conservatory

SNODLAND £184,950



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• Village Centre Location • Three Bedrooms • Master With Ensuite • Conservatory

MAIDSTONE £199,950



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• Well Presented Terraced House • Three Bedrooms • Town Centre Proximity

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HARRIETSHAM

£599,950



bearsted@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9718

An executive style family home situated in a semi rural position on the outskirts of the village. 4 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, master bedroom with en-suite, guest bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor. Double garage and gated driveway.

DITTON

£399,950



maidstone@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9720

3 bedroom semi detached period Grade II listed cottage with wealth of character features. Lounge with Inglenook, dining area, breakfast room, study, fitted kitchen with granite work tops and slate flooring, utility room with cloakroom, bathroom and en-suite to the second bedroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway with parking for approximately three cars. No forward chain. Stamp Duty paid subject to offer, P/X considered up to £190,000.

MAIDSTONE

£269,995



barming@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9717

- Detached Family Home • 3 Double Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms • • Non Estate Location

BEARSTED

£399,950



bearsted@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9718

- Detached Family Home • Four Bedrooms
- Double Aspect Lounge • Dining Room

LOOSE

£314,500



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0845 370 9720

- Detached Bungalow • Sought After Location
- Well Presented & Flexible Accommodation

MAIDSTONE

£219,950



maidstone@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9720

- Semi Detached Bungalow • Three Bedrooms
- Refurbished • Stylish Fitted Kitchen

MAIDSTONE

£239,995



barming@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9717

- New Development Of 7 Townhouses
- Completion Late 2008 • Far Reaching Views

HARRIETSHAM

£369,950



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0845 370 9718

- Detached Family Home • Five Bedrooms -
- Master Ensuite Bath/Shower Room

LOOSE

£294,995



maidstone@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9720

- Detached House • 4 Beds • Popular Loose
- Location • En-suite Shower To Master Bedroom

MAIDSTONE

£239,950



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0845 370 9720

- Sought After Location • Detached House
- Three Bedrooms • Well Presented

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WEAVING £325,000

An extended detached bungalow requiring modernisation/redevelopment. 5 bedrooms, large plot with approximately 90' frontage to the Ashford Road and opposite the grounds of Mote Park.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



BOWER PLACE £75,000

A top floor studio apartment. The lounge/bedroom is open plan to the kitchen which measures 9'3" x 5'7". The bathroom is separate and measures 9'2" x 5'. There is no forward chain.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



PENENDEN HEATH OIEO £345,000

A three/four bedroom well presented detached home situated. The property benefits from a refitted farmhouse style kitchen dining room, 15' lounge, 19' garage along with front and rear gardens.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



PENENDEN HEATH £450,000

1930s bay fronted detached home, private rear garden of approximately 150' and ample parking to the front. There are four bedrooms, three reception rooms and no ongoing chain.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



VINTERS PARK £199,950

An end of terrace three bedroom home with a double glazed conservatory, garage and southerly aspect rear garden. There is a 17' lounge/dining room, GCH, double glazed and no forward chain.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



CRANBORNE AVENUE OIEO £200,000

Re-furnished 2 double bedroom detached home. Lounge/diner, re-fitted contemporary oak style kitchen, cloakroom/utility area, 2 bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom. No forward chain.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



DODDINGTON COURT £175,000

A two bedroom semi-detached home built by Hillreed Homes and located in a cul-de-sac location on the outskirts of the town centre. Benefits include a re-fitted kitchen, GCH, garage and parking.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



FENNEL CLOSE £297,500

Modern detached 4 bedroom home with ensuite to master bedroom. Living room, separate dining room, kitchen and adjoining breakfast room, rear garden, garage and driveway, additional parking space at the rear.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



VINTERS PARK OIEO £162,000

Improved EOT home with no ongoing chain. The property benefits from a re-fitted kitchen and decorated throughout, rear garden and there is also a garage and parking to the rear of the garden.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



HARDY STREET OIEO £170,000

An extremely well presented Victorian style ragstone terraced located north of Maidstone town centre. This area being popular with commuters as Maidstone East railway station is a short distance away.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MARSHAM STREET £149,950

A self contained retirement apartment for the over 55's. The property includes two double bedrooms and a 17' living room. There are lifts to all floors and a resident manager. A viewing is highly recommended.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



HIGHLAND ROAD £139,995

A three bedroom terraced home with a 17' kitchen and 18' living room. There is also off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



PARKWOOD OIEO £75,000

A purpose built two bedroom first floor flat with double glazing and no forward chain.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



AYLESFORD £159,950

Modern 2 bedroom first floor apartment with views to Leybourne Lakes. Balcony, ensuite shower room and a 16'2" x 13' living room. An internal viewing is essential and there is no forward chain.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



DOWNSWOOD £250,000

A very well presented detached. The property has four bedrooms, two reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, kitchen and bathroom.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



LOWER FANT ROAD £269,950

Individual, substantial 3 bedroom family home set back off of Lower Fant. Split level lounge/dining room separated by a feature brick fireplace. Playroom/study and a re-fitted kitchen.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



ALLINGTON £280,000

Super 4 bedroom detached home with ensuite located. Re-fitted kitchen and has an adjoining utility room, Victorian style conservatory and two separate reception rooms.
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LINTON £289,950

Adaptable, extended semi-detached home, small cul-de-sac, southerly aspect, backing onto farmland. It includes 4-5 bedrooms, living room, dining room, re-fitted shaker style kitchen.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



AYLESFORD £309,950

A super four bedroom Berkeley home on the popular Lakes development. The master bedroom has an ensuite dressing room and bathroom. The guest bedroom also has an ensuite bathroom.
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POSTLEY ROAD OIEO £145,000

3 bedroom home located just south of Maidstone town and available with no forward chain. DG, GCH. There are two separate reception rooms, cellar and a rear garden of approximately 45'.
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



ST. MICHAELS ROAD £485,000

Impressive detached Victorian home sympathetically improved. Many original features and are complemented by a contemporary kitchen and a super Victorian style family bathroom.
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Bearsted £327,500

4 bedroom detached, 2 receptions, cloakroom, en-suite, utility room, garage, driveway

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Maidstone £295,000

Modern style 4 bedroom detached house in a cul-de-sac, en-suite, garage, driveway.

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Penenden Heath £290,000

Modern 4 bedroom link detached house, 2 reception rooms, conservatory, garage.

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Vinters Park OIEO £275,000

3 bedroom extended detached, 3 receptions, double glazing, central heating, no chain.

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Maidstone £250,000

4 bedroom detached house, cloakroom, backing onto farmland, attractive private garden.

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Maidstone £225,000

Modern town house on sought after development, 3 double bedrooms, 2 en-suites.

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Maidstone £224,995

3 bedroom semi-detached house with DG, CH, driveway, ideally situated for local schooling.

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Maidstone £219,995

3 bedroom detached house in town centre, 2 receptions, garage, no chain.

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Maidstone £199,995

Three bedroom detached, village location, garage and off road parking, no chain.

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Weaving £199,950

3 bedroom terrace house, cloakroom, UPVC DG, allocated parking for two cars.

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



Maidstone £197,500

3 bedroom EOT, 2 reception rooms, gas central heating, approx. 62ft rear garden.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Mann Countrywide are now in receipt of an offer in the sum of **£170,000** for **14 High Street, Lenham.** Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Mann Countrywide at **2 The Minor Centre, Grove Green 01622 735513**



East Farleigh £169,995

3 bedroom terrace house in sought after village location, kitchen/dining room, lounge.

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Maidstone £167,500

Popular location this 3 bedroom semi-detached house, 2 receptions, no chain.

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Maidstone £165,000

Modern apartment with open plan kitchen/living area, 1 bedroom, fitted kitchen, alloc parking.

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



Weaving £145,000

2 bedroom GF maisonette, DG, central heating and 2 allocated parking spaces.

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



Maidstone OIEO £150,000

Modern 2 bedroom house with kitchen/diner, lounge, garden, allocated parking, no chain.

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



Sandling Lane £135,000

Modern apartment with open plan kitchen/living area, 1 bedroom, fitted kitchen, alloc parking.

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Downswood £144,950

Two bedroom mid terrace with lounge, kitchen/diner and private rear garden.

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Aylesford



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Ditton



£133,750

2 bedroom terrace house in the Ditton area, porch, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, loft conversion has no proof of planning permission or building regulations.

Maidstone



£159,950

Unique four bedroom house in town centre, no onward chain and viewing via agent. Viewing recommended.

Harrietsham



£414,995

Prestigious detached executive house in popular semi-rural village location. Cul de sac position. Garage and driveway. Extensive accommodation including five bedrooms.

Larkfield



£204,995

3 bedroom semi detached family home, hall with cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, lounge/diner, bathroom plus garage with driveway.

Watlingbury



£224,995

2 bedroom semi rural country cottage. Benefits greatly from plot of land to side with possibility to build, subject to relevant planning consents.

Maidstone



£289,995

Detached home in elevated position in cul de sac location. New property with no chain, three bedrooms, plus open plan living accommodation.

Maidstone



£334,995

Views across the North Downs. Lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms and bathroom plus en suite to the master.

Harrietsham



£374,995

This property must be seen to be believed, three bedrooms with en suite to the master, family bathroom, lounge, dining room and kitchen.

Boughton Monchelsea



£895,000

Keepers Cottage built in 1900s, sympathetically extended in approx 2 acres of orchards and gardens with all sides offering views from the property.

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Herne Bay £200,000
2 bed detached bungalow, near seafront, great condition, lovely garden



Boughton £205,000
3 bed detached bungalow, great condition, secluded position, no chain



Whitstable £220,000
2 bed semi detached bungalow, recently refurbished, garage, no chain



Sturry £220,000
4 bed detached bungalow, 80ft rear garden, good condition, garage, no chain



Herne Bay £225,000
2 bed detached bungalow, newly fitted kitchen, fields to the rear, parking



Chartham £245,000
3 bed semi detached bungalow, great location, 2 recep rooms, garage, no chain



Whitstable £250,000
2 bed detached bungalow, 2 recep rooms, garage, panoramic seaviews, no chain



Bishopsbourne £310,000
3 bed semi detached bungalow, stunning rural location, conservatory, no chain



Herne Bay £350,000
3 / 4 bed detached bungalow, 2 recep rooms, garage, great seaviews, no chain



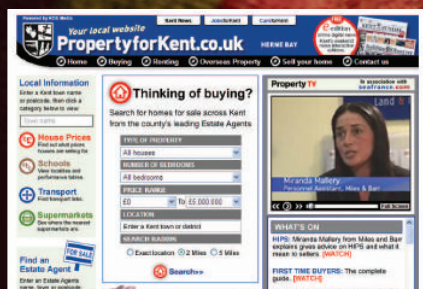
Whitstable £420,000
4 bed detached bungalow, swimming pool, lovely gardens, great location

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MOTORS NEWS



Italian stars join to light up Lipscomb Alfa night

KENT'S Lipscomb motor group fielded two top Italian stars for the opening of its new Alfa Romeo dealership in Maidstone on Thursday. And it was hard to decide the top billing: quick-quipping Italian star chef Aldo Zilli or the rare and seductive Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione supercar (pictured).

Nearly 200 people attended Lipscomb's state-of-the-art site at Forstal Lane, Aylesford, where Aldo cooked two mouth-watering dishes live served with perfect wine accompaniments – plus a diet of witticisms and banter. It is possible that Kent has never before seen such an entertaining car brand launch.



Ultra-green Fiesta all set to be a best-seller

FORD'S latest Fiesta is about to hit Kent showrooms and will not only be another best-seller, but possibly one of the most influential cars seen for some time.

This sophisticated supermini arrives as the market embraces the drive to downsize and adopt more eco-friendly motoring – the ultra-green ECOnetic version (from £11,845) will average well over 70+mpg and emit a road tax exempt 98gm/km of CO₂. Insurance ratings/costs and projected second-hand values across the line-up (from £8,695) are also much improved against current Fiestas.



Range Rover's appeal is clear in Black & White

BARRETT'S Land Rover in Ashford has created a £50,490 Black & White 'launch edition' to highlight changes for the 2009 Range Rover Sport line-up (from £38,495).

Dealer principal Mark Nicholas said: "As the name suggests, the Black & White makes a real visual statement with its Alaska white paintwork and darkened privacy glass. It sits on 20-inch Shadow chrome alloy wheels and inside door inserts which have been specified with contrasting ivory stitching."



A PURR-FECT EXAMPLE: There are precious few director-level rivals to Jaguar's 2.7-litre V6 turbodiesel XJ which averages 35mpg and offers a luxurious, comfortable ride

A big answer to the big ask: should I downsize?

THOUGH Jaguar became famous for pace-setting technology as much as power, it was pretty ponderous during the Nineties and early Noughties.

But it did get one thing right, for the latest XJ might look rooted in a heritage from the original 1960s XJ6 Series 1, but its lightweight aluminium body and advanced 2.7-litre diesel option have suddenly made it the right car for the right time – one when even the well heeled need to mind the pennies and their eco manners.

Okay, Jaguar's timing came off late on in the current XJ's career, but the big Jag remains a class act – and one that could stave off pressure to downsize.

Fact is that there are precious few director-level rivals to challenge our 2.7-litre V6 turbodiesel version's average 35mpg.

And while Jaguar's adherence to traditional style – a bad habit broken by the dashing new mid-range XF – has cost sales of late, a return to quality, reliability and durability is much welcomed.

ROAD TEST JAGUAR XJ

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

The leather, walnut and deep carpet looks and feels top-notch and the seats are comfortable with full electric adjustment as standard on the front pair – specification is generous across the range.

It really is a car that imparts a feel-good factor and, with decent fuel consumption, keeps you at peace with your conscience even if diesel versions start at £45,500 – some £2,000 more than the 3.0-litre petrol entry model.

Our car was also the stretched 'L' or limo diesel version in upmarket Sovereign trim, which costs £53,300 and makes you feel as though you should dawdle and revel in its luxury, style and sumptuous ride.

Nevertheless, the XJ upholds the finest tradition of Jaguar sporting saloons: it will purr when treated gently and growl when kicked and that 2.7-litre diesel sounds like a petrol unit in either mood.

A lighter body and quick steering make this large car deceptively quick on its feet on a winding road too, with the 'J-Gate' gearbox selector allowing manual selection of the six gears, though you soon get used to leaving it in well-organised fully 'auto'.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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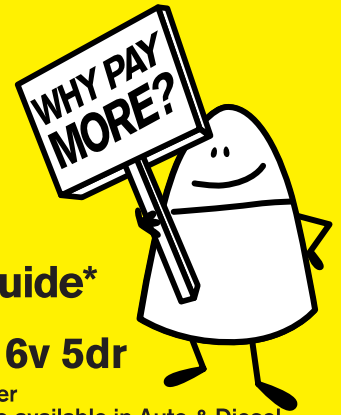
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Medium Cars



Choice of **365**

05 to 57 Reg	Mazda3 - Choice of 20	£7,799
06 to 08 Reg	Peugeot 207 - Choice of 25	£6,799
02 to 57 Reg	Peugeot 307 - Choice of 90	£5,299
02 to 56 Reg	Renault Megane - Choice of 25	£4,999
52 to 07 Reg	Ford Focus - Choice of 40	£3,799
02 to 57 Reg	Vauxhall Astra - Choice of 45	£5,499

Prestige Cars



Choice of **85**

06 to 56 Reg	BMW 1 Series - Choice of 5	£12,999
52 to 07 Reg	BMW 3 Series - Choice of 10	£6,299
53 to 06 Reg	Jaguar X-Type - Choice of 20	£8,299
W to 04 Reg	Lexus IS200 - Choice of 5	£6,499
51 to 55 Reg	Mercedes A-Class - Choice of 10	£5,499
03 to 55 Reg	Mercedes C Class - Choice of 15	£9,499

Large Cars



Choice of **215**

54 to 08 Reg	Peugeot 407 - Choice of 50	£5,999
02 to 57 Reg	Renault Laguna - Choice of 10	£3,499
X to 57 Reg	Ford Mondeo - Choice of 70	£3,999
02 to 55 Reg	Toyota Avensis - Choice of 10	£2,199
54 to 57 Reg	Vauxhall Vectra - Choice of 25	£6,799
53 to 56 Reg	VW Passat - Choice of 10	£5,499

Sports & 4X4s



Choice of **85**

54 to 07 Reg	Mazda MX-5 - Choice of 10	£9,799
04 to 07 Reg	Mazda RX-8 - Choice of 15	£9,499
05 to 56 Reg	Honda CR-V - Choice of 10	£10,599
Y to 06 Reg	Land Rover Freelander - Choice of 10	£5,499
54 to 55 Reg	Nissan X-Trail - Choice of 5	£8,999
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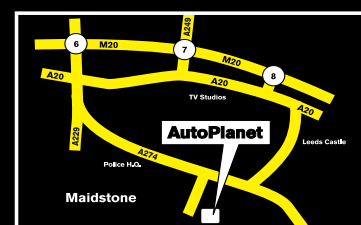
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

COMPACT EXECUTIVE SALOONS

GERMAN marques dominate the compact executive saloon market – BMW's 3-Series is a top-ten seller in the UK. But there are good desirable and affordable alternatives for used car buyers seeking a little extra class and comfort without 'going German'. Opt for models that have the most extra goodies on them, because the premium you pay for these will be far less than the original private or company buyer had paid; you could get sat nav and leather, for instance, for a few hundred pounds rather than several thousand.

carsfor Kent.co.uk

LEXUS IS200



TOYOTA'S luxury arm used the BMW 3-Series as a benchmark for its first compact exec and hit the mark for style, value and driver appeal – there was even an estate, but sales were hamstrung by the lack of a diesel until the Mk II arrived in 2005. The original IS200 was also underpowered yet juicy, while the rarer IS300 had the grunt, but was even thirstier. However, the IS-Series makes a great used buy with lots of kit and presence.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

JAGUAR X-TYPE



THIS brave attempt to attack dominant German models was affected by taunts that it was a re-worked Ford Mondeo. But this is naive and silly when the X-Type handles so well in both front and four-wheel drive formats. It is also affordable and has built a reputation for reliability, comfort and driver appeal. There is even an estate that is attractive and practical though it does command a premium second-hand. Best of all, there are two quality diesel options.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SAAB 9-3



THERE is a lot of Vauxhall underneath the Saab, but there is nothing wrong with that in terms of reliability and durability, especially when clothed by a low slung sleeky body that deserves the 9-3's 'Sport Saloon' tag. Where the Swede scores on the used market is through sporty yet frugal diesel options, faltering prices for older examples and greater availability of the rakish Sportwagon estate that arrived in 2005 to make up for the lack of a hatchback model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Senior & General Appointments 39-44



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Head: John Hassett MA

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The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in the subject of English. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently.

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Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained from by telephone

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The post carries a high-volume workload so you will have an eye for detail and the ability to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. You will also be a team player, educated to HND/Degree level or equivalent in a related subject. The post requires a high level of motivation, good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and related countryside access issues along with excellent organisational and communication skills. **Ref: ER/08/0114**

For more information, please call Laura Wilkins on 01622 221517.

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For further information please contact Mrs J M Bell, Headteacher. Applications by letter and C.V including the names and addresses of two referees.

Closing date for applications is 4.00 p.m. 15th October 2008.

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No Agencies please

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The role will involve

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- Promoting good attendance, attitudes and behaviour at all times
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A flexible approach to working and the ability to work as part of a team and under our own initiative are essential. Good communication skills at all levels are essential.

Experience of working with young people in an educational, Youth and Community or similar environment would be an advantage.

We also will be appointing

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH & HISTORY for January 2009 start

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and the name of two referees to the Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Closing date for applications: 2 October 2008

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For application forms contact: KCA (UK), 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 59351, Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: 17th October 2008

Interview date: TBC

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No. 292824

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Website: www.gsgs.org.uk

email: enquiries@gsgs.org.uk



TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY/ YEAR 7 HISTORY

Required as soon as possible (Maternity Cover) Main Professional Grade

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The School has a high profile for achievement both locally and nationally. There is also plenty of scope to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

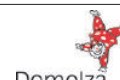
Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than

Wednesday 8th October 2008

This is a Non Smoking school.

Children's Palliative Care Assistants



Demelza Hospice Care for Children provides specialist care and support to children with life limiting conditions and their families. Posts are based at our hospice in Sittingbourne, Kent.

Are You?

- Qualified at NVQ level II as a minimum in a relevant healthcare subject?
- Able to demonstrate the ability and willingness to increase your skills and work towards NVQ level III and our own in-house competencies?
- Experienced in working either in palliative care, or with children with complex medical or psychosocial or behavioral or educational needs?
- Able to contribute to an excellent team in a highly specialized environment?
- Able to value the benefits of quality time spent with the whole family providing holistic care?
- Able to commit to an 8 week rota with regular rotation onto night duty and some weekends? Full and part time hours available but all shifts must be undertaken.

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Visit our website on www.demelzahouse.org

Closing Date 17th October, 2008

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Registered Charity No. 1039651.

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If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. Due to location, you need to have your own transport and a proven track record in sales is preferable.

We offer:

- Good basic salary
- Performance and revenue related bonuses
- Five weeks holiday a year

Apply in writing to:

Tracy Morgan, Telesales Manager,
KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent or email
tracy.morgan@kosmedia.co.uk



Award Winning Company

KOS Media | Apple Barn | Hythe Road | Smeeth | Ashford | Kent | TN25 6SR
www.kentnews.co.uk | www.jobsforkent.co.uk | www.yourkenttv.co.uk

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not and in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All advertisers and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise shall be the responsibility of the advertiser. Any person or moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficiary owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centime where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owner shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error or inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owner for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of order material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card effective July 2008-June 2009 and will reflect the revised level of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by other party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production hours at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will be responsible for the cost of any changes required to the TV commercial and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the RPS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
 - a. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
 - b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
 - c. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary in the event of the advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
 - d. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
 - e. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk



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Faversham Residential Home CARE ASSISTANTS

required for night or day shifts. Working on a rota basis. Experience preferred but training will be given.

For further details please telephone 01795 532629 between 10am - 4pm

IN-STORE LEAD-TAKERS

required (full and part time hours available). Positions available in Ashford, Belvedere, Canterbury, Dartford, Greenwich, Gillingham, Sidcup, and Tunbridge Wells. Based in the country's No1 DIY multiple retail outlet, your role would be to generate quality enquiries for Canterbury Conservatories.

Please contact Trish Marsh on 07872 376 137 to arrange a local interview.

Isle Craft Flowers require Part-Time Assistant Florist

Please apply in writing.
Telephone: 01795 877486
Email: pdoucy@aol.com
278 Minster Road
Sheppey ME12 3LR

Lydd Golf Club require a Part Time Bar Person

Minimum 25 hours a week.

Must be over 18. All shifts
required including weekends
Bar experience preferred.

We also require an

Assistant Cook

Various shifts including weekends

Please call Keith on 01797 320808

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We have openings on a permanent and fixed-term basis for everyone from graduates (ideally with a relevant degree or equivalent) to experienced marketing professionals. There are opportunities to work on a variety of products on a broad spectrum of activities, including mailings and press campaigns.

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter, stating current salary and quoting reference SS254/KOS, to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, The Saga Building, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Closing date: 17 October 2008.

saga.co.uk

SAGA

Saga people do things properly

achievement employability experience development



Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Co-ordinator of Key Skills (to become Functional Skills) Across the Faculty of Engineering and Construction 08/138

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum

Lecturer Mechanical Engineering 05/81

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum

Lecturer Key Skills - Catering & Hospitality 06/149

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Lecturer - Computer Games and Interactive Media 08/54

18.5 hours per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Pre 16 Tutor 07/12

37 hrs per week salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum.

Fixed term post ending 31 August 2010

Supply Lecturers required in the following areas:

First Aid	S/FA
Drama	S/DRAMA
Catering & Hospitality	S/C&H
Public Services	S/PS
Early Years	S/EY
Health & Social Care	S/HSC

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Web Systems Developer 08/142

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Network Application Technician (Advanced) ATA

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum

Service Desk Technician Level 2 SDT2

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

HR Advisor 08/119

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Administrative Assistant - College Redevelopment 08/120

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Public Services 08/140

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time.

Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Curriculum Support Assistant within Public Services and Security 08/139

18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time.

Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Catering Assistant 08/141

25 hrs per week, 36 weeks term time.

Salary £11,801 pro rata per annum

Supply Computing Support Technicians S/CST

Various hours available, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Supply Pre 16 Learning Support S/Pre 16/LS

Various hours available, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Supply NVQ Assessors are required in the following areas:

Cleaning	S/ASS/CLE
Security	S/ASS/SEC
Health & Social Care (CYP)	S/ASS/HSC

Various hours available, salary range from £17,727 - £25,418 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the

Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone)

quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 13th October 2008 at 12 noon

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

achievement employability experience development



Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Learning Support - Administration, Finance and Key Skills 08/93

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 13th October 2008 at 12 noon

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



Babcock Defence Services Opportunities Medway



The Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) provides training in leadership and management, infrastructure engineering and battlefield engineering and is regarded as the finest military engineering school in Europe.

Following the award of the contract, Babcock Defence Services have the following recruitment opportunities based at the RSME at Medway:

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSE (PART TIME) REF: RSME 9C
DRIVERS (PSV, LGV, HGV & ADR QUALIFIED) REF: RSME 19-22C
PLANT OPERATORS (VEHICLE SERVICING) REF: RSME 17C
STORESPERSON (AMMUNITION) REF: RSME 15C
ARMOURER & ARMS STORE OPERATOR REF: RSME 25C
SERVICE SUPPORT DESK OPERATORS REF: RSME 23C

If you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number.

Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services, Collingwood Triangle, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TS.

Applications to be received by: Monday 20 October 2008.



Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT10 1HQ
 Tele: 01843 593326 www.marloweacademy.co.uk

Team Leader Vacancy

Team Leader for Mathematics
 Salary Leadership Scale L13 – L14

Now in its fourth year, Kent's first Academy continues to challenge traditional approaches and to drive up standards – over twenty students have now gone on to university and last year's 5A*-C GCSE figure topped 50%. Real progress has been made with the 2011 National Challenge, but we believe that the creation of this Leadership Team post is crucial to our continued success.

The successful candidate will at least have:

- ⇒ relevant middle leader experience;
- ⇒ a background in Mathematics;
- ⇒ energy, drive, commitment and ambition;
- ⇒ and excellent communication skills.

Jenny Spooner, our Personnel Manager, is administering the appointment process. Please email her for details at Jennifer.spooner@marloweacademy.co.uk, as well as the chance to tour the Academy with our Principal, Ian Johnson.

The closing date for applications is Friday 10th October 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you.

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Your Skills Our Vision



Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Sheerness to Dungeness, Ashford to Ramsgate, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS – and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and well-being for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts.

Why not join us?

STAFF BENEFITS PACKAGE

- Final salary pension scheme
- Occupational sickness benefit
- Lease car scheme for eligible staff
- Occupational health service
- Childcare
- Enhanced maternity pay
- Enhanced paternity pay
- Enhanced adoption pay
- Flexible Working Policies
- Extensive Training Programs
- Long service awards
- In-house discounts & external benefits

SELECTION OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMIN AND CLERICAL

Medical Receptionist/Administrator x 2

Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
 Location: Sittingbourne, Kent
 Hours: 30
 Ref: 767-ECS487
 Closing date: 1/10/08

Receptionist & Team Secretary

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Broadstairs, Kent
 Hours: 30
 Ref: 767-ECS495
 Closing date: 1/10/08

Receptionist

Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
 Location: Ashford Community Offices
 Hours: 30
 Ref: 767-ECS485
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Receptionist

Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
 Location: Ashford Community Offices
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ECS486
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Secretary

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Canterbury
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ECS488
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Receptionist

Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
 Location: Ashford
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ECS489
 Closing date: 16/10/08

NHS Emergency Planning Business Manager

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
 Location: Eureka Park
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH152
 Closing date: 3/10/08

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Sexual Health Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
 Location: The Gate Clinic, Kent and Canterbury Hospital
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH134
 Closing date: 1/10/08

First Contact Nurse Practitioner

Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
 Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH148
 Closing date: 1/10/08

Intermediate Care Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
 Location: Folkestone
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-EIC490
 Closing date: 1/10/08

First Contact Nurse Practitioner

Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
 Location: Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital
 Ref: 767-ASH149
 Closing date: 1/10/08

Young Peoples Sexual Health Outreach Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
 Location: Vicarage Lane Clinic
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH141
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Young Peoples Sexual Health Outreach Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
 Location: College Road Clinic
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH142
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Young Peoples Sexual Health Outreach Nurse

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
 Location: Folkestone Health Centre
 Ref: 767-ASH143
 Closing date: 2/10/08

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Dietitian

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
 Location: Buckland Hospital
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH147
 Closing date: 1/10/08

Dietitian

Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
 Location: Kent and Canterbury Hospital
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH150
 Closing date: 1/10/08

Dietitian

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
 Location: William Harvey Hospital + Buckland Hospital
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ASH146
 Closing date: 1/10/08

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Pharmacy Technician - Practice Support

Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
 Location: Protea House
 Hours: 37.5
 Ref: 767-ECS454
 Closing date: 2/10/08

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES

HEN Team Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital
 Hours: 15
 Ref: 767-ECS500
 Closing date: 1/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
 Hours: 25
 Ref: 767-ASH135
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Canterbury Coastal
 Hours: 25
 Ref: 767-ASH136
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: College Road Clinic
 Hours: 25
 Ref: 767-ASH137
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Dover Health Centre
 Hours: 25
 Ref: 767-ASH138
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Folkestone Health Centre
 Hours: 25
 Ref: 767-ASH139
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Sexual Health Outreach Health Care Assistant

Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
 Location: Vicarage Lane Clinic
 Hours: 25
 Ref: 767-ASH140
 Closing date: 2/10/08

Discover the secrets of our success – Business opportunity

Breaking the mould

"We're changing the way people buy and sell their homes and we are inviting people who have the foresight to take advantage of this opportunity to join us in the revolution before others try to follow".

Christian Miles
Director, Miles & Barr



"This company is one that is as different to what we know as Estate Agents as chalk is to cheese"
Judge, Dick Pascoe, Kent County Council

- Own your own business
- Be part of an award winning brand
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- No previous experience necessary

Become a Partner with Kent's Company of the Year

Have you ever watched The Dragon's Den where a simple but brilliant idea is presented and you sit there watching thinking "I wish I'd thought of that or could at least be part of it?"

Well, we had that same eureka moment almost two years ago, long before the current property market decline and since then we have been developing and moulding our ideas for the future into an award winning business model.

Our winning concept works even in these difficult market conditions and will have we believe as big an impact on our sector as the iPod had on the music industry.

If you would like to share in the secrets of our tried and tested formula which has set our business apart, then you'll probably already have the entrepreneurial spirit that it takes to become a business owner/partner with Miles & Barr. If you are prepared to put hard work, commitment and investment behind your ability and have the vision to see what a great opportunity this is, then you could be one of the partner's we are looking for. Whether you come from an estate agency background or not, you will need to come with an open mind and without any preconceived ideas.

We believe that the old estate agency format is dying and that once you have seen our successful formula, you to will have your own eureka moment, just like those entrepreneurs in The Dragon's Den.

If you are interested in finding out more about this life changing concept please contact Miranda Mallory on **01843 572582** or email franchise@milesandbarr.co.uk

www.milesandbarr.co.uk/franchise



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Advertise your business on yourkenttv.co.uk – the Kent local search directory
find out more about us and our products and services online

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Disputes on the rise as cash gets tighter

BOSSES and firms are getting frayed at the edges as the stress of the downturn takes its toll, with experts reporting that contract disputes are rising.

Businesses are taking more care over verifying terms of contracts with customers and suppliers, and business partners are increasingly locking horns, warns the Law Society.

President Paul Marsh said: "Our members tell us companies are exercising caution with contracts as they tighten their belts. Disputes tend to arise over what is a fair or unfair contract term."

"In the current climate many contracts will be under the microscope. Many solicitors, as well as being skilled litigators, are trained in alternative dispute resolution methods, such as mediation."

Lunch boosts hospice

AN all-female Kent business networking lunch – run by local accountancy firm Horwath Clark Whitehill, in conjunction with Ansacom, Clydesdale Bank and Brachers – raised £400 for the Heart of Kent Hospice, near Maidstone.

Professionally Pink is an event just for women from local businesses, and guests at a recent lunch heard from speaker Caroline Brinkman, corporate fundraiser from the hospice.

Event organiser Emily Rushton, of Horwath Clark Whitehill, said: "It was great to be able to make a donation towards their important work."

For details, phone 01622 767690, or email emily.rushton@horwath.co.uk.

Seminar opportunity

CALLING all Kent businesses wanting to reach Britain's largest single customer:

Yes, it's the Government, which spends £125 billion a year on goods and services.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Partnership for Profit Improvement and the West Kent Partnership, is presenting a public sector business opportunities seminar called A Route to Market.

It will be on October 22 at Kings Hill Conference and Training Centre, University of Greenwich, West Malling, from 9am until 1pm. Cost is £29.79 plus VAT. Book online at www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk, phone 01233 503838, or email rachel@kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

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Don't miss this month's Business Update from Tony Patey. Search 'patey'

Measuring success at unique engineering co



SUCCESS: Left to right, Ann Widdecombe MP, Lord Lieutenant of Kent Alan Willett and Transmille managing director James Bailey, with staff from the unique company

MP ANN Widdecombe was the guest of honour at a ceremony celebrating the unique success of an engineering company.

Transmille Ltd, based in Staplehurst, won a coveted Queen's Award for Enterprise earlier this year – considered the top business accolade in the UK.

To mark the achievement the Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald and Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett, were invited to tour its premises at the Select Business Centre in Lodge Road.

At the end of the visit Mr Willett officially presented the Queen's Award to Transmille managing director James Bailey.

Miss Widdecombe said: "I am delighted that

BY ANNA WHITE

Transmille should have won so impressive an award. The sum of the nation's success is that of individual enterprise and vision and therefore this award is important not only for this Staplehurst company, but for Britain as a whole."

Commitment

Mr Bailey said: "Naturally we're delighted to have won this award, but what's really important to us is that it's a clear demonstration to customers, old and new, that we are one of the UK's leading companies in the development and supply of calibration and test equipment."

The Queen's Award for Enterprise recognises three categories – international trade,

innovation and sustainable development.

Transmille took the gong for innovation, becoming the only UK engineering firm to be chosen, due to the work they carry out in developing a range of expandable calibrators and small portable products.

The company's business development manager Michael Crawford said: "The award is an important milestone in the development of Transmille's product portfolio, notably our advanced range of calibrators."

"This award demonstrates our commitment to offering customers a real alternative for precision calibration products, maximising calibration and service centre capabilities."

Transmille was founded in 1997 and has built up clients worldwide including Airbus (UK) and Saab in Sweden.

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Picture: STRIKE TIRELL

Smart's Silverstone weekend to forget

SCOTT Smart had a weekend to forget in the British Superbike Championship after failing to finish both races at Silverstone.

The Hawk Kawasaki rider lasted 16 laps out of 20 in the first race after an incident saw both Smart and Yamaha rider Karl Harris retire from the race.

In the second race, Smart slid out with just seven laps completed as Sheppey's Shane Byrne clinched his second British Superbike title with a third place finish.

Smart hopes to end his season on a high at the final round of the championship at Brands Hatch on October 12.

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Sidecar star Tim Reeves tells Tom Howard about his history-making year

Pleasing draw as Blues hold Blair

KENT County League side Bearsted played out a 1-1 draw with undefeated Medway side Hollands & Blair on Saturday.

Wins have been hard to come by for the Blues this season, with just one in five games, but they will be pleased with a draw against last season's title contenders.

Bearsted have suffered just one defeat so far this season and will be looking to protect that statistic when they travel to Sheerness East on Saturday.

Elsewhere in the division, Snodland recorded a 1-1 draw with Rusthall which places them tenth in the league, just three points adrift of fifth position.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
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CUP DRAMA: Maidstone United celebrate as Ben Lewis' 94th minute header left the Ryman Premier League side just two rounds away from the FA Cup first round proper

Lewis leaves it late but keeps cup dream alive

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Maidstone United 3 Fisher Athletic 2

A LAST-GASP header from Ben Lewis kept Maidstone United's FA Cup dreams alive with a dramatic second qualifying round victory against Blue Square South side Fisher Athletic.

After a disappointing start, Maidstone found themselves behind with just nine minutes on the clock.

Slack Stones defending allowed time and space for Fisher's Hamid Barr to cross to the unmarked Ken Beaney in the Maidstone area. The midfielder made no mistake and slotted

the ball past goalkeeper Andy Walker.

However, the lead lasted just five minutes as Maidstone raised the tempo and scored a deserved equaliser.

Lloyd Blackman controlled the ball on the edge of the area but saw his effort crash against the post. Just as the Stones fans behind the goal thought the chance had passed, Nathan Paul stepped up and side-footed the ball home.

United should have taken the lead on the half hour as Blackman shot over from just five yards out after a James Pinnock flick-on.

Shortly before half-time, Maidstone were dealt a blow as Blackman was forced off with an injury. He was replaced by new signing Seb Schoburgh.

The second half started much like the first, with Fisher piling pressure on the Maidstone defence for the first five minutes.

On 65 minutes Maidstone took the lead for the first time in the tie with a well-worked goal. Meshach Nugent, who was injured in the process, played the ball to Pinnock on the edge of the area. He curled the ball into the bottom corner, out of the reach of Fisher goalkeeper

Chris Lewington. Against the run of play, Fisher scored with just four minutes left.

Michael Kamara used his pace to find space on the right and his cross flew into the top corner of the net, stunning the home crowd.

In injury time, Maidstone won the tie in dramatic fashion. A Jay Saunders shot was well saved and from the following corner Ben Lewis headed the ball home to secure a passage to the third qualifying round with the last action of the match.

Manager Alan Walker was delighted with the way his side kept fighting to secure victory and is hoping the cup run can continue.

Walker said: "We needed to bounce back after Tuesday's 2-0 defeat to Dartford and we did in style. I am delighted with the result and the performance. We started sluggish, but after that we bossed the game."

"We created a lot of chances and could have beaten them much earlier in the tie. Their second goal was a total fluke but we kept knocking on the door and our perseverance was rewarded."

All-rounder Wells to replace Igglesden

CRICKET

FORMER Kent and England all-rounder Vince Wells has been appointed cricket coach at Sutton Valence School.

Wells, 43, enjoyed a successful 16-year first class cricket career which included four years with Kent. Later in his career he won the County Championship title twice with Leicestershire and also became their captain.

In 1998, he was called up for the England one-day tour to Australia, and promptly underlined his credentials as one of the country's top all-rounders by taking three wickets for 30 and scoring 33 off 39 balls.

Wells never made the England Test squad but in the one-day team, he played nine matches, taking eight wickets.

Wells completed his county career at Durham in 2003, returning to Kent with his wife Debbie to start a business in

Whitstable. He has recently been assistant coach to the successful England Ladies' cricket team, as well as coaching at the Kent County Cricket Club academy.

He succeeds former Kent and England fast bowler Alan Igglesden as the school's cricket coach.

Igglesden has taken up a new post at Woodhouse Grove School in Yorkshire.

Wells said: "My aim is to carry on where Alan left off, introduce one or two new ideas, and maintain the school's excellent reputation for cricket and other sports."

He will also be helping with rugby and football coaching at the school. As a youngster he nearly chose to play professional football with Leyton Orient.

Wells' appointment follows the opening of the school's £2.5 million swimming pool.

The school also has plans for an athletics centre to be built in conjunction with Maidstone Council and Medway and Maidstone Athletics Club.



NEW COACH: Former England all-rounder Vince Wells has agreed to become the cricket coach at Sutton Valence School

Things really can only get better



Picture: BOB HANTON

THIRD DEFEAT: Maidstone put in an improved performance against Kent rivals Thanet, but are still without any points after a disastrous start in London 2 South

Maidstone 3 Thanet Wanderers 33

MAIDSTONE'S disastrous start to the season continued with a third straight defeat to fellow Kent London 2 South rivals Thanet Wanderers.

After two thrashings in the last fortnight, including a 111-0 mauling by Chobham, Maidstone did show an improvement – even though the scoreline may not suggest it.

And with experienced players coming back into the side, the only way is up. Piers Frances and Martin Arnold returned for the game, as did Jimmy Walker after picking up an ankle

RUGBY

■ BY TOM HOWARD

injury last week.

While there was an initial lack of cohesion, the defence was much improved and the first quarter passed with little pressure being exerted on either side's try line.

The first significant play came after 23 minutes, when a Maidstone penalty kick failed to find touch.

On the counter, Thanet winger Cackett made good ground into the Maidstone 22 and flanker Harris picked up the ball and scored by the posts for a seven-point lead to the visitors. An error under the new experimental laws by Maidstone fly-half Frances led to the

next try just before half-time. From a scrum just outside the 22, the pass-back was kicked directly into touch, and from the resulting lineout near the Stones' line, Thanet prop James Green got the touchdown from a rolling maul to earn a 14-point half-time lead.

Maidstone started the second half with aggression and were rewarded with what proved to be their only score of the game. Frances kicked a successful penalty to cut the deficit. However, Thanet fought back and scored three tries, two from Cackett, in the second half, as Maidstone's defence struggled to deal with their fast backs.

Despite an improvement Maidstone were left with a 33-3 defeat at the final whistle and will have pick the pace up to secure their first win of the season. This Saturday they host mid-table Cobham.



Picture: STREETREBEL

RARE GOAL: Nathan Paul is dreaming about making the first round proper of the FA Cup

Paul delighted by quality new boys

FOOTBALL

ONE of Maidstone United's longest-serving players, Nathan Paul, scored a rare goal in his side's FA Cup win against Fisher Athletic on Saturday, but the style of football this season is the real cause for celebration, he says.

The Stones right-back, who has scored a handful of goals in his four seasons at the club, netted the equaliser in the 3-2 victory against Fisher and could not hide his delight.

"It's my first of the season and I'm over the moon. I haven't scored many and I may even get a bonus for that," he joked.

"I should have celebrated with the fans, but it was a great win and I can't wait for the next round. I hope we get a big team.

"We're just two rounds away from the first round proper and, who knows, perhaps we can get Newcastle United away."

Paul signed for Maidstone in 2005 from Beckenham Town. He is one of two remaining players who were at the club when the Stones won the Kent League in 2005/06 and the Ryman South title the following season.

However, he will be remembered by most supporters for his tireless performances and battling back from a life-threatening knife attack that saw him play the majority of 2006/07 season with one arm heavily bandaged.

This season Paul is enjoying his football more than ever. He attributes this to the players who have joined the club this season and a different brand of football being played.

He said: "We have some quality players at the club now, such as Roland Edge, Jay Saunders and James Pinnock. All the new players have brought something to the squad. The sky's the limit for this season.

"I am enjoying every moment. The better the players are around me, the more I get the ball. Unlike last year, the ball isn't in the air all the time.

"It's good to get to play some good football and get results," he added.

Wilting Bulls easy meat in the heat



LOSING IT: Aylesford Bulls' defence was off the pace in the second half

RUGBY

Warlingham 56 Aylesford Bulls 0

A NIGHTMARE second half saw any hope of victory extinguished as Aylesford Bulls were forced to play the remaining 20 minutes with 14 men.

After last week's 25-9 victory against Purley John Fisher, Bulls travelled to unbeaten Warlingham with optimism.

However, all hopes of a repeat performance were soon dashed with a dual early setback.

Bulls lost flanker Paul Hyland to injury and conceded an early try with a rapid counter-attack from the home side.

Winger Ollie Cargill came close to scoring and putting Aylesford back in the tie, but he was narrowly bundled into touch before he could ground the ball.

Bulls were unable to string together

any cohesive movement and the home side were always in a position to capitalise.

Aylesford conceded another break-away try shortly before half-time to find themselves 10-0 down at the interval.

The second half didn't get any better for Bulls and they quickly found themselves 22 points behind after conceding yet another try.

In chasing the game, Bulls became over-ambitious and looked to create moves that really were not available.

On one occasion the home side intercepted from within their own 22 and scored another try.

Bulls suffered a further blow as they were reduced to 14 men after another injury, with all their replacements used.

The home side took full advantage as Aylesford wilted in the sunshine and conceded five tries in the last 20 minutes to take the final score to 56-0.

Aylesford will have to put this result behind them and focus on Saturday's clash with Hove.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson reveals why he signed Spurs striker Andy Barcham

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